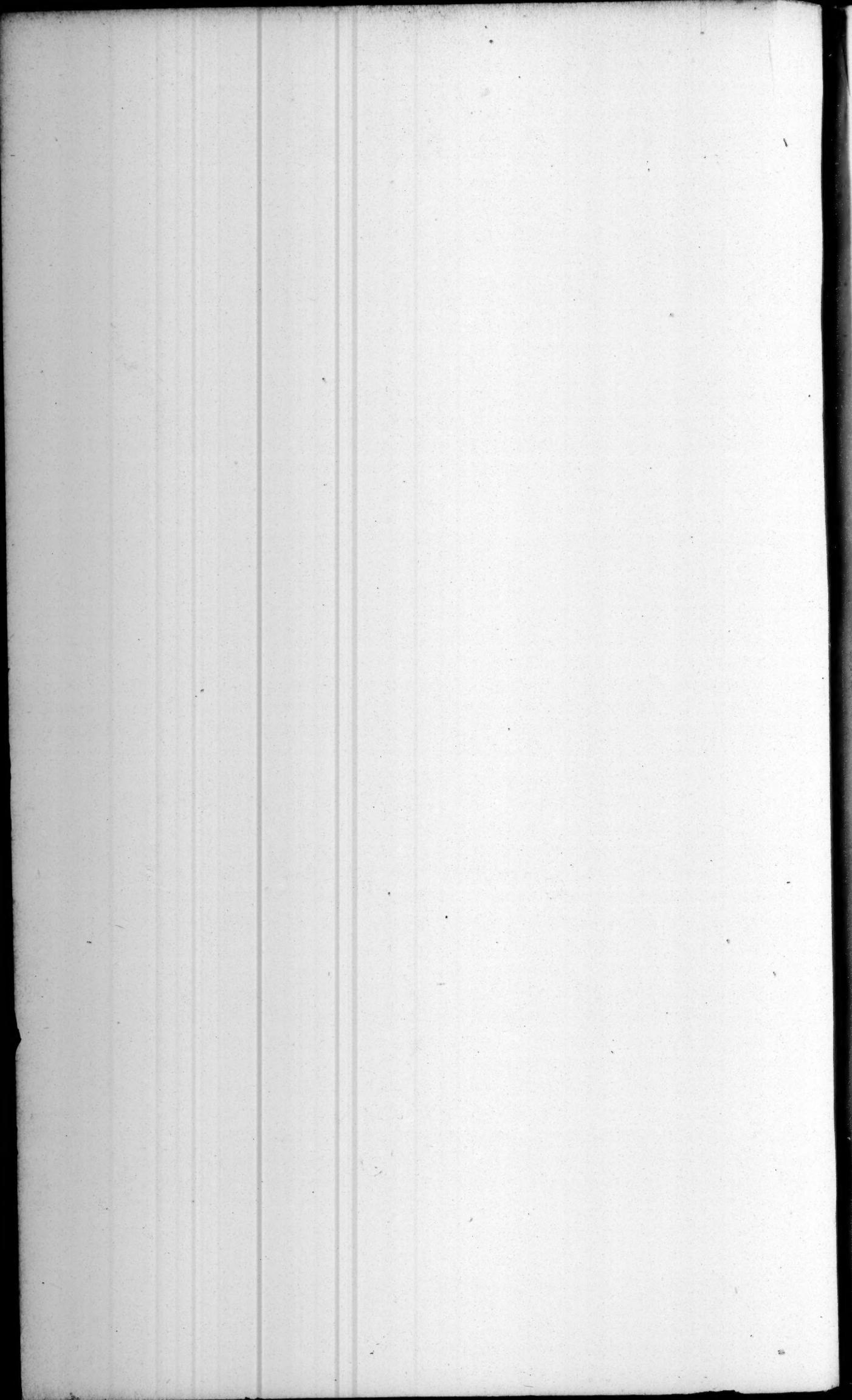


C A S E S
IN THE
ACUTE RHEUMATISM
AND THE
G O U T, &c.



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C A S E S
IN THE
ACUTE RHEUMATISM
AND THE
G O U T;
WITH
CURSORY REMARKS,
AND THE
METHOD OF TREATMENT.

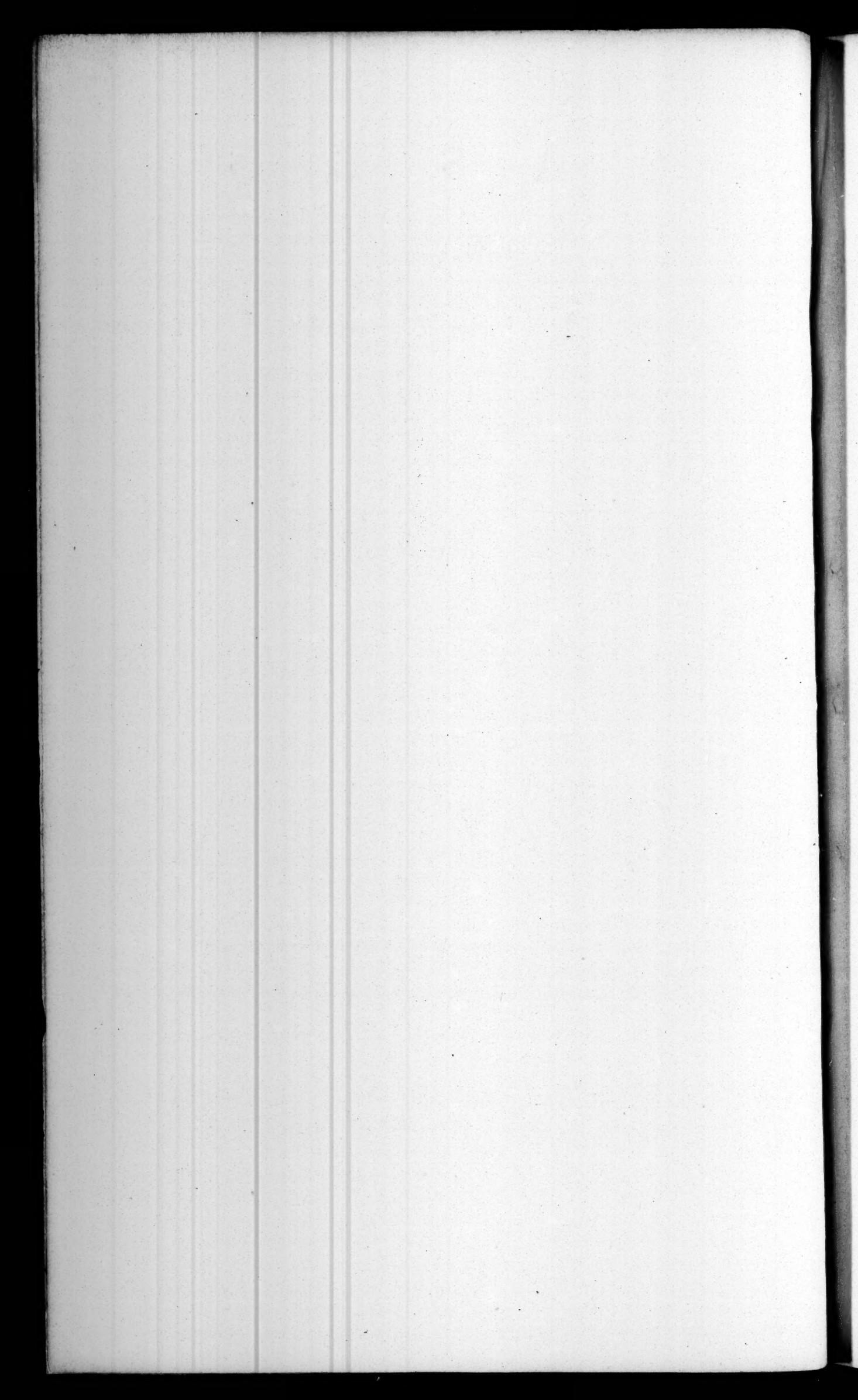
By THOMAS DAWSON, M. D.
Late Physician to the Middlesex, and the London, Hospital.

— μη σφγα. Τα δε πλειστα, υκ σφγα.

L O N D O N,

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MDCCCLXXIV.



C A S E S
IN THE
ACUTE RHEUMATISM
AND THE
GOUT, &c.

THREE is no occasion to make any apology, for laying a few Cases of my practice before the public.

For as it has been, in a particular instance, the subject of much conversation, and some controversy among the physical people, the consequence, I trust, will be this—either, that I myself shall receive some improvement from the reasons and objections of others, (if any are disposed to object) or that such of them, who can read without prejudice, will be induced to follow a like method of practice, when

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similar cases shall occur, which have been attended with such evident advantage in my hands, for a considerable length of time.

It hath been a stale artifice of illiberal and ungenerous minds, to oppose, with great vehemence, any remarkable deviation from the common road of practice. But the candid and ingenuous will ever examine for themselves, be disposed to suspend their judgments, readily submitting every new experiment, not obviously hazardous, to the decisive test of fact and experience.

Permit me here to assert, by way of preface, in common with other medical writers, that the health and happiness of mankind is much concerned in a right and judicious practice: to urge also the same plea with them, that this is the principal motive for laying before the public a few facts and observations, desiring just the same allowance of credit, on this head, which is usually given to others, and no more.

Let me further apprise the reader, what he is to expect—No formal or elaborate treatise, protracted to an unnecessary length, decked out with a variety of uncertain theories, or blind conjectures; that endemic disease in physical writings. I mean only to offer a few plain cases of

the latest date, with, as was hinted before, some few observations, in that frequent and excruciating disease, commonly called *an acute Rheumatism.*

Having thus bespoken the attention of the reader, we proceed immediately to the cases themselves; and our remarks and observations upon them shall either follow each Case, or be added at the conclusion of the whole, as may best convey our intention and reasoning.

C A S E I.

*^a **M**ary Wright, of Stoke-Newington, of a sanguineous, and healthy complexion, aged 19, was, from catching cold, on the 14th of August 1772, suddenly seized with a pungent, throbbing pain in her left ankle, which quickly afterwards became red, and swelled. She, herself, and her neighbours, attributed this at first to a strain; for the

* * These asterisks have relation to a *particular case*, well known in this part of the world, in which I was prevented by *an accident* from giving the guaiacum-draught. I was not sent for till late in the disorder, when the *case* had been pronounced desperate. Indeed we never considered it in that dangerous light; but were happy, however, in seeing the patient recover by other, tho' slower means, which, in all probability, would have happened much sooner but for that accident.

removal of which, liniments, &c. were applied, but without effect. Her pain sensibly encreased, by the warmth of the bed; and, on the third day from the attack, she became manifestly feverish; observing, at the same time, that her fever, her sweats, as well as the acuteness of the pains, were greatly augmented during the night. The anguish, before this time confined to her ankle only, was now become universal. The joints of her legs and arms were remarkably swelled and enflamed; and her fever, thirst, and restlessness, seemed daily to encrease. Upon which she called for assistance; and, as well as I could guess, both from its taste and its effects, (always occasioning a sense of coldness at her stomach) a single saline mixture, with the addition of nitre, was all that had been directed for her.

I was sent for on the 27th, a fortnight from the commencement of the complaint, and found her as above described. Her tongue was white, but moist, her pulse quick, but rather weak. She was withal very cogitative. There was no delirium; nor had there been the least tendency to it at any time.

I ordered her to be bled immediately, and directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in two ounces and a half of common water,

water, to be taken at night, and repeated early in the morning. Both the draughts were taken without any difficulty ; and in the evening of the 28th, I found her sitting up ; her pains and fever having entirely vanished. The blood was extremely fizy and viscid.

The medicine gave her a few motions, and produced a critical discharge, both by perspiration and urine.

Nothing seemed further necessary, nor was any thing further done, than barely directing a little Elix. Paregor. to allay the ruffle, and to prevent the looseness going too far. I neither followed it with the bark, nor directed the cold bath : one or other of which I have usually directed, and sometimes both, to prevent a return of the disorder.

Happily for the patient, she stood in need of neither, but hath continued perfectly well ever since.

* Mr. DOWNING, Apothecary.

R E M A R K S.

I Should have thought myself very happy on this occasion, to have contrasted this case with another, treated in the ordinary and common way, the termination of which

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did not take place, of full six weeks from the commencement. But though I wished, and it was my intention to do it, when I first sat down to write, yet considerations of a peculiar nature intervening, prevent me, for the present, at least.

Let me here request the reader to reflect with himself, whether, in the whole course of practice, there can possibly be a more immediate connection betwixt the operation of the medicine, as a cause, and the removal of the disorder, as its effect, than in the case here exhibited. The relief was speedy, the recovery perfect. No case in practice can be less ambiguous. This once admitted, it is most apparent, that a disorder, which is often very tedious, has been vastly shortened; a great deal of exquisite pain and suffering cut off, much blood-letting prevented, a numerous farago of clysters, blisters, nitrous, saline, and attenuating medicines superseded; and, what is no immaterial consideration, to that industrious class of mankind most subject to this complaint, a vast expence lessened, and a long detention from business prevented. And if a more certain, and an abbreviated crisis of this disorder may be hoped for, the aggregate advantage to the community, from such a treatment becoming

coming general, must be too high for estimation.

For it must be observed, that this complaint is peculiarly prevalent in Great Britain, owing, perhaps, to the temperature of our climate, our insular situation, the damps and moisture to which we are subject, the sudden and quick transitions from heat to cold, and *vice versa*, more especially in autumn, and the succeeding months, till very late in the spring. It also attacks persons of the most active and happy constitutions; the husbandman, the gardener, the soldier, &c. the inferior indeed, but not the least useful class of mankind; deigning, however, now and then, to visit in its course the rich and powerful.

Now, what forbids us to hope for the like happy termination of this tedious disorder, which took place, both so speedily and so effectually, in the case above-mentioned; and which, though simple and uncomplicated, was as alarming, and the pain as excruciating, as any we had ever seen. There can surely be no absurdity in supposing similar causes may produce similar effects. Does not humanity then call upon us, success flatter, and

reason approve, and urge, further trials in every like instance ?

Great care, however, must be taken, that the circumstances be really similar, when we do make use of the same treatment. It would be the height of presumption and temerity, because bleeding, purging, cooling, sudorific, incraffating, or attenuating medicines are, in some particular fevers, and in certain periods of a fever, very useful and proper, to apply these rashly, without such an attentive discrimination of circumstances, as may best direct us to the *when*, and *how*, they are respectively necessary.

It is almost needless to observe, that fevers have their respective differences, their respective rise and progress, declination and crisis. In all of them, different stages require different kind of treatment ; and what might be proper practice in the commencement of any one of them, may be much otherwise in the advance of the same disorder, and so *vice versa*.

This general observation is but superficially touched, in order to introduce our retrospect upon the given case with more advantage.

We have here a patient, who had been grievously afflicted for a full fortnight, bled after an attentive inspection of the case in
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the evening of one day, when this particular medicine was administered soon afterwards, and repeated in the morning; and in the evening of the same day, totally freed from all fever, and every attendant complaint: her health restored without any further measures being used, or any return of her disorder. Does this warrant us to do the same, at all times, and in every stage of the disease, without any consideration of circumstances? No, surely! This would be a most hasty and imperfect conclusion indeed, and might lead to very dangerous errors in practice. A fortnight had elapsed before the above measures were taken for her relief: nature had, all this time, been at work in her own mysterious laboratory. A fever was visibly her instrument. She had not been disturbed in her operations either by bleeding, by clysters, or purgatives. A saline or nitrous mixture, such it appeared to me, was all that had been given. A great costiveness prevailed, and the fever, though more inert, yet still retained a degree of activity, as is usual before it takes its departure. Nature also, it is very probable, had been discharging some of the offending matter through the inflamed and tumefied joints, by an insensible, whilst the intervening sweats were doing the same, by
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a more sensible perspiration. The morbific matter seemed fully prepared, by a due concoction, to pass through the innumerable and invisible outlets, which cover the surface of the body, as well as down the great excretory canal, through the urinary passages, and the orifice of the vein. All this assistance being given at once, in the seasonable moment, when nature was struggling in this last finishing operation, the crisis became perfect and compleat.

The time *when* this was done, is so material a circumstance, that it can by no means be overlooked, if we would pursue a similar treatment. Had the same measures been directed on the second, third, or fourth day from the commencement of the disorder, it is probable, that they would have been attended with no such fortunate event, but perhaps quite the contrary. The state of the case then, would have been no longer *the* same, and therefore the expected issue, might have been very different, tho' the prescribed methods were the same. We might have been doing harm instead of good, and obstructing nature too much, in her wise and kind endeavours to serve us. Both the fever and the costiveness might have been wanted here, for the present, to forward

forward and execute her intentions, and to ripen the matter for a more speedy and effectual termination.

We had no reason, perhaps, to lament, that the usual methods of the best practitioners, for a long series of years, had not been pursued in the more early stage of this disease. This was our advantage, at least it appeared so to us, on a careful review of the case. From hence we were induced to conclude, that even in this ardent and inflammatory fever, we may be too hasty and precipitate, in pursuing the constant practice of early bleeding, and other evacuations; and may carry them much too far. Would it not be more adviseable, to wait a little, to do nothing without an urgent necessity, except in the dietetic way, or only something to amuse the patient, and guard against any great irregularities? If his sufferings should be rather greater for a few days (tho' I am not certain that would be the case) yet he is likely to be rewarded, by a more speedy release from them, and a more perfect recovery of his health.

Add to this consideration, that we have greater compass allowed us in the rheumatic fever, than in many others, where the same

same cautious proceeding is adviseable: because this is not, in general, a disorder either of such mortal danger, such rapid progress, or such speedy issue, in respect to life or death, as to allow no time to look about us. It affords us commonly, sufficient leisure to make cool observations on its progress, its *anapny* or state, its declination and variations, and also on the tumefied parts, (*viz.*) as to colour, moisture, whether red and florid, moist or dry, whether hard or soft, and in a subsiding state when less erratic and more stationary.

It would be unpardonable, when we have several indicative circumstances presented to us, in the hot and inflammatory rheumatism, not to pay the strictest attention to them. For by repeated observations, conducted with proper accuracy and minuteness, in a variety of cases compared with each other, we may possibly hit upon that critical moment, that proper and seasonable point of time, when nature invites, and we are ready to join forces in the entire expulsion of the peccant matter from all quarters of the body; and to perform a radical and permanent cure, without any of those terrible remnants of an imperfect and unfinished crisis, occasioned either by a

premature attempt to assist nature, or one too long delayed.

This great *desideratum* is worthy of an attentive investigation; and we should think ourselves very happy, to arrive at more certainty about it. In the mean time, it is best not to be impertinently officious, intruding with our ignorance upon the much greater and wiser designs of nature to serve us, but to be in constant waiting to obey her orders expeditiously, whenever she shall point at a crisis, and throw out fair and manifest signs for assistance. For nature will, and must have things in her own way; and by our impatience to have matters dispatched out of hand, and endeavours rudely to force her, we may frustrate both her intentions and our own wishes, and be left in the midst of that distress and affliction, to which no human skill can prescribe either certain bounds or certain remedies.

Such, as well as I can recollect, were some of the ideas which occurred to me, on reflecting upon the above case.

The following Case I shall give in the words of the letter, sent me by the gentleman who attended the patient. Mr. Johnson was at that time an entire stranger
to

to me; but was so obliging afterwards, at my request, on a particular occasion, of a very different nature, to draw it up; and now gives me his permission to publish it, though written with no such intention.

C A S E II.

George Turner, a white-smith, in Marsh-street, Walthamstow, in the 35th year of his age, of a middle stature, strong tense fibre, and good constitution, desired me to attend him, on the 3d of September last, having been very ill for several days in a rheumatic disorder of the inflammatory kind.

The case at first, appeared to me rather alarming, and attended with some danger of his life, as well as his limbs. He had a continual pain in his arms, legs, and thighs, several of his joints swelled and inflamed, and had, at times, very acute pains on the muscles of the thorax and membranes of the side; his pulse very quick and hard, tongue extremely dry and foul, and intense heat and dryness in the skin, accompanied with sickness, nausea, and a violent diarrhœa.

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In order to stop the looseness (which seemed to be the principal concern before I was called in) he imprudently drank some quantity of hot Port wine, with spices, and made use of several other things, no less improper, with respect to the fever and inflammation of his blood.

I immediately bled him, to the amount of twelve ounces, and found his blood extremely fizzy, with no small degree of acrimony. Two or three hours after, I gave him a gentle emetic, and that with a few doses of rhubarb, &c. soon settled his bowels; after which I put him upon medicines of the cooling and attenuating kind, which considerably lessened the fever, abated the pain; and he continued better for two days and nights.

The fever then advancing, and the pain encreasing, I took away more blood, and repeated it the next morning, in proportion to the strength and fulness of his pulse, &c. with a view chiefly of subduing the fever, as I found the state of the blood the same as at first, and thereby making way for more efficacious medicines, blisters, &c.

The pain continuing obstinate, and very little abated by all that had been done, I next morning advised calling in a physician;
and

and Dr. Dawson was sent for, who coming soon after, and finding the fever on the decline, ordered a draught for him, to be repeated every morning and evening, with half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of barley water; and, if I found it necessary to add Tinct. Thebaic. gutt. xij. which I did three times, on account of a great tendency to a diarrhoea, that it might not run off by stool.

Before the Doctor left the room, I took care to inform myself, whether he meant (as he had directed) to have the whole dose given at once, having never seen so large a quantity given before; and I now declare it as a fact, that I never, in the whole course of my practice (which is upwards of twenty years) saw any one medicine answer one quarter so well, under the like circumstances.

The first dose greatly relieved him, without being attended with the least ill effect on any account; and after the second, in the morning, I found him in an universal, fine, gentle sweat; his pulse greatly softened, and quite calm, a fine concocted sediment in his urine, and the pains and swellings in a manner gone.—It is to be observed, that though two large blisters

ters^b were applied to the affected arms, at the same time the draught was given, the relief he found so soon after, cannot well be attributed to any thing but the latter. The draughts were continued three days, till the pains had perfectly left him, without the Tinct. Thebaic.—But from making too free, on all accounts, (as I frankly told him at that time, and forewarned him) and, perhaps, from some fresh cold, the pains returned some days after; and, for want of being properly attended to, continued troublesome for some time.

* R^D. JOHNSON,
Walthamstow, Surgeon and Apothecary.
March, 31st, 1773.

^b Dr. Langrish agrees with Dr. Friend, in recommending *vesiccataries*, in *ardent acute Fevers*, provided they are applied towards “the stationary period of the fever, when “the solids begin to flag, and stand in need of a stimulus; “or when the natural operations are insufficient to dis-“charge the morbific matter through the excretive glan-“dules, without such assistances. But, on the contrary, “whilst the vital powers are too strong, whilst the vessels “and fibres are too rigid and dry, whilst the blood and “lymph are viscous and inspissated merely by the intense-“ness of the heat, and whilst all the efforts of nature are “sufficiently strong, the application of blistering plasters “must needs be improper.”

The reader will observe, that this is the only case wherein blisters were applied, when the breath was not affected; and that the cure does not seem, in this instance, to be accelerated by them.

R E M A R K S.

circumstances

Fidelity in the narration of Cases, of this nature, is indispensably required, joined to an accurate attention, even to very minute circumstances, before we can make a judicious comparison, and be enabled from thence to determine, that they are Cases in point; and so far similar in their leading, and capital ~~Verities~~, as to justify the same conclusions, and the same treatment.

Let it be further observed, that there may be some little and circumstantial differences, yet not of so essential a nature, as to affect the sameness, or similarity of the Cases.

Here we have a fever of several days standing, before any assistance was called for.—Instead of costiveness, the usual concomitant of this complaint, a looseness was prevalent from the beginning, and through a considerable stage of the disease. The blood was (as is usual in pleurisies and rheumatisms) buffy and fizzy. In this gentleman's idea, it was moreover in an acrimonious state. The fever, we find, after abating a little, returned with equal violence. The pain in the limbs remained obstinate, without much abatement. But after the third

third bleeding, the fever being on the decline, we saw it necessary immediately, before it had quite deserted us, neglecting the less material and more minute circumstances, to direct our aim to the capital intention, of giving our assistance in the absolute expulsion of the offending matter.

We considered things as in a state of full ripeness, for acting in this manner; and accordingly threw in the medicine, without further evacuations by the lancet; which happily seconded our intentions, by an universal, gentle sweat, shewing the crisis, both by a calm, softened pulse, a fine concocted sediment in the urine, and an almost entire cessation of the pain;—manifest tokens these, of a perfect crisis.

The same medicine was repeated for three days successively; though it ought to be observed, that the crisis manifested itself, as in the former case, evidently on the second day, after the exhibition of the second dose.

Now, as the patient had been greatly exhausted by the continuance of the disorder, the repeated bleedings, and other discharges, I directed, (what is omitted in the Case) as well to remedy these inconveniences, as to prevent a relapse, a strong decoction of the Bark, with the addition of the Cordial

Confection, and left him two or three days afterwards quite well ; recommending to him further, as a general strengthener, to use the cold bath for some little time. As to the relapse, which did not continue any great length of time, that is sufficiently accounted for, in the Case itself.

Let us now see, in what capital and essential points these two Cases, and their treatment, do agree, by selecting and separating them from lesser incidental circumstances ; which we may consider, as only a varied drapery, in the portraiture of one and the same person.—They agree in these respects ; the fever was all along strong and vigorous in both ; and continued, in the latter Case, (notwithstanding repeated bleedings, the constant practice of the best and most approved physicians) time sufficient to attenuate and macerate the offending matter, be that what it will. They agreed also in this respect, that when I was called in, the fever was not without activity ; and though in this Case, rather more languid than in the former, yet had it by no means quitted either of the patients. They agree further, that the very day after the exhibition of the medicine, a perfect crisis was formed. Add to this, the tumefied parts, and the appearances of the blood were the same

same in both. These I call the capital circumstances.

With regard to the dryness of the skin, in the latter Case, and the diarrhoea, which had continued throughout a great part of the disease, and which might possibly contribute to render the skin dry and parched ; though this circumstance was not wholly disregarded by us, yet did it not appear of sufficient moment to decline the use of the medicine, while other material considerations strongly indicated its propriety ; especially, as it was so easily restrained, if excessive. Nay, rather, Did it not become us, as far as could be done with safety, to conspire with Nature, if indeed it was her intention, to carry off part of the morbid matter by the looseness ? Be that as it may, the offending matter was to be expelled, the fizy disposition of the fluids to be attenuated, now that the fever was threatening to leave us, and every thing seemed ready for that kindly *diaphoresis* ; the most usual, and the most happy termination of the acute Rheumatism.

It will here perhaps be said, Beside the other differences already mentioned, how can the cases be the same, when, in the latter, three bleedings took place, and in

the former but one? This answer will be sufficient: that, notwithstanding the intention was, undoubtedly, to subdue the fever by the lancet, a practice this in perfect consonance with that of the best modern physicians; yet, we find, the fever did still continue. The fact was, (and this is principally to be regarded) that beneficial instrument of nature did not forsake us, but continued its services so long, and so late in the disorder, as to attenuate sufficiently the peccant matter, and fit it for expulsion; about which latter business, we supposed, she was at that time principally employed.

This was certainly our advantage in the present Case, and is a sufficient answer to the objection.

It is a happiness to find, that there is that kind of latitude allowed us, with regard to the fever in this disorder, insomuch, that it will admit of repeated evacuations, even to a fifth or sixth time. Reverius pushed it to ten or twelve times. And indeed, where the principal part of the cure is rested upon bleeding, this must be the case. Numerous repetitions will be necessary. But how the case may stand here, and whether we run no danger of introducing a debility into the constitution,

by

by such a practice, is worthy of the most serious consideration. For if, after all, some remains of the peccant matter are left in the habit, nature, thus weakened, may not be able to effectuate their expulsion; and the consequence therefore to be apprehended, is a fixed and chronic Rheumatism, either in a lesser or higher degree, of shorter or longer duration.

But supposing nothing of this, how may the constitution in other respects (though not immediately visible) be impaired, by running off so much of the blood of life in the course of a few days or weeks? What a train of disorders may not arise from an impoverished blood? May not new foundations be laid, in this practice, of turning a good constitution into a bad one, making us an easier prey to future disorders of various kinds? Though it may not be in our power to determine absolutely how this matter may stand, considered in its remotest consequences, we have reason at least to apprehend some unhappy, though more distant effects.

Possibly it might be this apprehended consequence, and the imperfect crisis he had frequently observed attend this practice of repeated bleedings, which made the

great Sydenham ^c pathetically lament the necessity he was under of using the lancet so freely in this disorder. He disliked it so greatly, that we find, in the later periods of his life, he even made attempts to do without it, and some very successful ones.

But not to carry the matter so far : though nature, I believe, who hath subjected us to a great variety of accidents, hath not made us of such very brittle materials, as to disable us from bearing the loss of moderate quantities of blood occasionally ; yet, whilst we congratulate ourselves on the latitude

^c Dr. Sydenham, in a letter to Dr. Brady, says, " As to the cure of the Rheumatism, which you likewise desire to be informed of, I have frequently regretted, as well as you, that it could not be accomplished without the loss of a large quantity of blood, by repeated bleeding ; whereby the strength is not only impaired for a time, but weak persons are usually more disposed to other diseases for some years ; when the matter occasioning the Rheumatism afterwards falls upon the lungs, the latent indisposition in the blood being put into action, by taking cold, or some other slight cause. These reasons induced me to search after some other method of curing this disease, than such repeated bleeding. And having well considered, that it seemed to proceed from an inflammation, as appears from the other symptoms, but especially from the colour of the blood, which exactly resembles that of pleuritics, I judged it might probably be as successfully cured, by a plain, cooling, and moderately nourishing diet, as by repeated bleeding ; and the inconveniencies likewise attending that method avoided. Accordingly, I found that a diet of whey, used instead of bleeding, had the desired effect.

allowed

allowed us in this complaint, we ought to be sparing of carrying our privilege to its full extent; especially, as we consider the fever to be so exceedingly instrumental in producing that perfect crisis which we wish for.

All that we argue for is this, not to disturb nature more than we can help, nor open a vein oftener, than what some violent or threatening symptom indicates; neither beginning with it too early, nor carrying it too far, without necessity. Indeed, when the fever manifests very great violence, or the concomitant erratic pains shift suddenly, from the extremities, to the more noble internal parts, affecting the sides or the breath particularly, which now and then happens, it must be allowed. But we shall dismiss this Case for the present, as we may very probably be obliged to recur to it, in the Remarks on the subsequent Cases, with observing, that notwithstanding these lesser differences, and variations, yet the disorder gave way to the same treatment, and the expeditious crisis was the effect of the same medicine.

C A S E III.

HENRY ABCHURCH, of Dalston, a gardener, in the 20th year of his age, of a tall, thin, sanguineous habit, was in perfect health till the 4th of April 1773, when a *crick*, or *snatch*, as he expressed himself, seized his right leg all at once as he was walking; which soon affected his thigh, and, after sitting down for some time, he became so stiff, and full of pain about his loins, that he was almost disabled from rising from his seat; nor could he get any rest in the night; and, during the night, was unable to turn himself in bed, without assistance.

The next day he was sensibly feverish. All his complaints were encreased, particularly the pain in his loins. It removed afterwards to his left ancle, which became red and swelled, as did his knees and his wrists afterwards, to a great degree. The pain and swelling, as they abated in one part, flew to, and encreased in another. Though the thirst and fever were considerable the whole time, yet no delirium was ever observed.

On

On the second day after the seizure, he was bled, and cordial confection, with Sal, C. C. was given him; and, at intervals, purgatives, with Merc. Dul.; and the tumefied joints were rubbed with opodeldoc.

Thus matters continued for a full fortnight, according to the best description I could get of the Case.

When I was called in, the pains were confined to his knees and ankles chiefly, which were inflamed and swelled in some degree; and, though in a subsiding state, he was still unable to move them. His fever also was considerable; but not so active as it had been some days past; and from the beginning of his illness, he had been as he was now, rather costive.

Seven ounces of blood were taken away, by my direction; which was fizy and pleuritic: and the following draught given him that night, and repeated twice the next day;

R Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. 3fs.

Solve in Vitel. ov. q. s.

dein. adde gradatim

Aq. Hordeat. 3iis.

Syr. Balsam. 3fs.

M. Fiat. Haust. d.

In

* This form is put down once for all, as the attentive observer will find, that if the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. be added

In the evening of that day he quitted his bed. His fever left him, and his pains and swellings disappeared entirely. A single draught, with a dram and half of Elix. Paregor. was the only thing given him further; and the patient hath continued from that time to this in perfect health.

R E M A R K S.

THIS Case appears quite dissimilar to both the former in *one instance*. The patient was bled in the earliest attack of the disorder, the very day after the seizure.— Does not this overturn all our former reasoning?—No harm we find ensued; none, at least, that was visible. Our medicine operated as successfully, and as speedily, after a second bleeding, as in the former Case. We are therefore to suppose the matter was as well prepared, by coction and comminution, for expulsion, as if no such step had been taken; so that what we then

to cold water only, and not briskly agitated, or suffered to stand long, or in particular seasons, the gum will sometimes run all on a heap, and separate itself almost entirely from the volatile part.

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considered as an advantage in the first Case, *viz.* the omission of early bleeding, seems to fall to the ground at once.

Let us then consider this matter a little further : as, in the present Case, early bleeding was attended with no bad consequences ; so neither was the omission, in the Case of Mary Wright.

Thus far matters are pretty even ; but then, if, as we take for granted, the fever is an instrument in Nature's hand, of so good omen and utility, the decision is evidently in favour of the omission, unless some untoward symptom or circumstance make it necessary. And this is all we contend for—that,

Nec Deus interfit, &c.

But let it be remembered first, that Abchurch was only once bled, and that a full fortnight had elapsed, before I was called in, and directed him to be bled again ; during all which time the fever had been very active, and doing that for us, which no human art or medicine can do ; and every thing was ripe for the crisis, which was soon completed after I saw him.

Let it be also observed, that as the first bleeding did no harm, so neither is it manifest, that any great good was gained by it. But we are sure of this, that the patient in
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the first instance received no injury from the omission. We cannot therefore help thinking it an advantage in Abchurch's Case, that nature was no further disturbed by venesection, for so long a space of time, as it gave us an opportunity of a second bleeding, immediately before the medicine was given. For it is adviseable to exhibit the medicine as soon as possible after the bleeding ; beginning the use of it early in the evening, and repeating it early in the morning. But perhaps we are too minute in this respect.

All that we are concerned for is, not to attempt any thing so hostile to the fever, as to endanger it's too early extinction ; but so to conduct ourselves, as not to disoblige our best friend too much, and provoke him to leave us to struggle with a cold chronic Rheumatism, where the offending matter, entrenching itself in some deep recess of the body, may annoy us all our future days with continued pain and misery.

Our reasoning hitherto hath proceeded upon our own observations, and upon the Cafes which we have produced.

Let us now see, how the doctrine we have laid down will agree with, or is countenanced by, the principles and sentiments
of

of some of the most eminent physical writers; though it must be confessed, that their practice, on this head, differs from ours.

The great French physician, Riverius, begun the cure of this disorder with bleeding, and sometimes repeated it even to ten or twelve times, restricting it only by the abatement of the complaint, or the apparent inability of the patient to bear more, without manifest injury. But at the same time, this excellent physician, who seems to have considered the disorder with much attention, forbids purgatives and sudorifics, in the beginning, the increase, or even when the fever has arrived at its altitude and permanent state; allowing mild and gentle openers in the declination only, and the stronger purgatives not till the entire absence of the fever, and sudorifics not till after these, and last of all.

Now, let us ask ourselves this plain question; If, in the opinion of this great man, nature ought not to be disturbed, either by purgatives, or sudorifics, until the declination at least of the fever, why should she be disturbed and counteracted by bleeding, and weakening the fever unnecessarily? The violence, thus offered to nature, by purgatives and sudorifics, too early administered, did harm, and by no means

answering the end proposed. How, indeed, could this be otherwise; it being impossible to carry off the noxious matter, as yet not sufficiently fitted for secretion and evacuation, and to pass through the extreme fine strainers and canals, which convey it to the surface of the body? and what, may we ask, is so likely to produce this ripeness and maturity, as Nature's own instrument, the fever itself?

We may, I think, fairly gather, from the account he gives of his own management, that the disorder spun out to a considerable length, and that no perfect crisis was obtained, by bleeding *alone*; for, when the fever was gone, after the use of the milder, he was constrained to fly to stronger and more drastic purgatives; nay, further, to bring up in the rear sudorifics, warm baths, corroborants, &c. before he could entirely rout the enemy, and obtain a complete conquest. And, it is more than probable, by this continual endeavour to subdue the fever, the disorder was protracted to an unnecessary length, and that a radical, and permanent cure, became as dubious as it was tedious. Had he been more sparing of the lancet, the morbific matter would have been sooner ready for expulsion, his purgatives and sudorifics been given with success,

success, the disease terminated sooner, and with less danger of weakening the constitution.

Let it be further remarked, that this great physician had himself observed, that a fever, along with the Rheumatism, was the happiest omen of an abbreviated crisis, and a speedy termination of the pain. Now, could any observation more strongly confirm, the utility of the fever in this disease, or so forcibly prohibit any violent measures to subdue it ; when this very fever is confessedly the happiest indication of the shortness of the disorder ? And doth not this observation, of a justly celebrated physician, whose practice is directly contrary to the principle we have acted upon, give the strongest countenance and support to all our reasonings and conclusions ?

During our attendance upon these cases, we occasionally visited our own countryman, the great British Hippocrates. And though we found, the practice of this immortal physician did not favour us, but was directly opposite to ours, (for he bled both early and freely in this disease) yet his general theory, with respect to all febrile disorders, very much confirmed the

D principles,

principles, upon which we have conducted both our experiments, and treatment of it.

For, setting aside his general theory, we shall find, upon a careful examination, such hints and passages, where he expressly treats on the Rheumatism, as seem extremely conclusive in our favour.

Towards the close of his description of this disorder, he says, — “ In the beginning of the illness, the fever and the above-mentioned symptoms do sometimes come together ; but the fever goes off gradually, whilst the pain continues : occasioned by the derivation of the febrile matter to the limbs, which the frequent return of the fever, from the repulsion of the morbid matter, by external remedies, sufficiently shews.”

Let us now weigh well this observation ; from which these two Queries naturally arise.

1st. If some external remedies, by repelling the morbid matter from the limbs, cause a return of the fever, Doth it not appear then, from the fairest deduction, that the fever is the instrument of nature, to prepare for expulsion the offending matter ; and that, if she is not so happy, as perfectly to effect this, by means of a general perspiration, &c. she lodges it upon the limbs,

limbs, though commonly at a distance from the more vital parts? — So kind is she in all her operations!

2dly. And if the fever, which from this plain indication appears to be thus expulsive of the noxious matter, goes off for the most part gradually, “whilst the pain continues and sometimes encreases,” Doth not this give us the strongest intimation of the caution to be used in the treatment of the fever, and prohibit any attempt to reduce it, either too early or too much?

The reasonableness of this, will be further manifest, by observing what follows: where he says, “That though, when the fever is gone off, this disorder seldom proves fatal: yet the violence of the pain, and its long continuance, render it no contemptible disease; and that, in case of wrong management, it frequently remains, not only several months, but some years; nay, even during life: though, in this case, it is not equally painful, but hath its periodical returns, like the Gout; and the pain may possibly go off spontaneously, after it hath been of very long standing.”

Now, doth not this tragical picture, with the additional circumstance of, “the deprivation of a man’s limbs during life; the contractions on the internal parts of the

fingers more especially, as in the Gout, while the appetite and the general health remain good ; ” Doth not, I say, this tragical picture sufficiently terrify us, with the too common consequences of an unfinished crisis ?

This great author, ascribes these dreadful effects, frequently, to wrong management. But we may ask, Whether there can be any management so wrong, as an attempt totally to extinguish that fever, which is so friendly and beneficial, and which he further observes is apt “ to go off gradually,” without an abatement, and sometimes with an increase of the pain ?

Indeed, the great author, in the same paragraph, seems to intimate, as if the fever itself was the most alarming and dangerous circumstance. “ Though when the fever is gone off,” says he, “ it seldom proves fatal,” yet we must ever think, it is more alarming in its appearance, than dangerous and fatal in its nature, agreeably to his own observation, that it “ goes off gradually,” the pain however continuing.

And it must be owned, that many persons, of great skill and practice, have entertained the same idea of eminent danger from the fever, and are thereby led to carry bleeding

bleeding to a considerable length ; it being their primary intention to subdue the fever, and to remove the subsequent pains by other methods in common use.

But so much for this ; and here I lament my prolixity, wishing to have made this Essay a short one, for the present at least.

I must however ask pardon for the freedom of my remarks on Dr. Sydenham, that great ornament to his country. But it must be said, with due deference, that he departs more from his constant guide, nature, in this, than in his treatment of other diseases ; his sentiments and his practice both fluctuating very much on this subject. And yet, much more is to be learned from him, even in this more defective performance, than from most other writers. For this great luminary in physic, though subject now and then to a partial eclipse, or to have his light intercepted by a few passing clouds of theory, merits the poet's elegant encomium,

— *Micat inter omnes,*
— *Velut inter ignes,*
Luna minores.

C A S E IV.

* JOHN ALLEN, a porter, in the 45th year of his age, a stout, strong-built man, of a sanguineous habit, was suddenly seized, in the beginning of July 1772, with the usual feverish symptoms, particularly great sickness at his stomach, which were soon followed with racking pains in his limbs.

* Mr. Sherfon first saw him on the 9th of July, bled him freely, and the sickness continuing, ordered him a puke of antimonial wine, which was followed with gr. xv. of Dover's powder. The patient's joints being swelled and exceeding red and painful, and the fever continuing, the disorder evidently appeared to be an acute Rheumatism. He was bled thrice afterwards, had purgatives given him, at due intervals, consisting of Sena, Manna, Tart. Solubil. Sal. Polychrest. with sudorifics; such as Camphor, Gum Guaiac. Effen. Antimon. Huxham. and other preparations of Antimony. By these means the pains and the fever abating considerably, or rather appearing to be subdued, a fair opportunity seemed to offer, of throwing in the Bark, which was done

done accordingly, and very liberally, both in substance and decoction. But as it ran off pretty quick downwards, it became necessary to discontinue it, and both the fever and the pains of the joints returning, with equal, if not greater violence, recourse was had to Sp. Minder. draughts, with Effen. Antimon. and the camphorated julep, checking the looseness at the same time by a temperate use of opiates.

I saw him on the evening of the 18th, and having at that time a troublesome cough, as well as flying pains, which now and then affected one side particularly, with the above-mentioned symptoms, *viz.* a fever, quick, but rather a weak pulse, tongue white and foul, urine turbid, and high coloured, with something of a brick-dust sediment, the joints of his fingers a little swelled, and here and there red and inflamed. Nocturnal and profuse sweats had also taken place; insomuch, that he was obliged to change his linen frequently. No delirium then, or in any part of his illness. I ordered him a blister to the side affected; and a mixture with half an ounce of Elix. Paregor. and the same quantity of Sp. Vol. Aromat. of which four spoonfuls were to be taken every five hours.

The next day, the pain of his side disappearing, and observing the fever to be on the decline, I directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of common water, and a dram of syrup, to be given twice that day, and four spoonfuls of the mixture every six hours.

The draught produced its usual and desired effect, both by urine, perspiration, and stool. Not willing to push the matter further, the succeeding day, I ordered him a cordial draught, with volatile salts, and gutt. viii. of. T. Thebaic. to be taken morning and evening, adding to the mixture, the cough still continuing obstinate, half an ounce of spermaceti. The next day, (*viz.*) 21, eight ounces of blood were taken from him, and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol given two hours afterwards, and in the evening also, in two ounces and half of common water, and a dram and a half of syrup of saffron; to which gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. were added, to determine it, as much as possible, to the surface, and to prevent its passing off too quickly downwards. On the 22d, it had procured three motions, as it did on its first exhibition, produced a free perspiration, a large discharge by urine, and a total cessation of his pains and fever. A strong

strong decoction of the Bark, with Cordial Confection, was directed afterwards, and continued to the 26th;—when I left him perfectly well.

R E M A R K S.

THIS last case differs from all the foregoing, in the following respects:—Great sickness prevailed in the beginning;—a troublesome cough through the whole of the illness;—flying, darting pains affected one side particularly, as in the pleurisy,—which often happens;—and, in the more advanced stages of the disorder, debilitating, profuse night-sweats.

Matters being in this situation, we resolved to pause a little, and to satisfy ourselves, with attempting to ease the cough, and to remove the erratic lateral pains, by such means, however, as coincided with the general intention of cure.

Fully convinced, from many appearances, that nature had aimed at a crisis for some days past, we considered these debilitating colliquative sweats, (not as critical, but symptomatical merely) or, if critical, as her feeble, ineffectual endeavours

vours to throw off an oppressive load from the constitution : but, whether symptomatic or partially critical, most certain it was, the patient always found himself much the worse after them.

Apprehending some danger from the disorder, as being a little anomalous, and that it must either terminate in death, or be followed with something worse than death itself, an imperfect crisis ; or, at least, that it would be protracted to an unnecessary length, if the common and usual methods only were pursued ; we determined to try our medicine in this very late period of the disorder, when nature seemed to labour too much, in her endeavours to effectuate a perfect depuration, being obviously calculated to fuse the blood, and fizy disposition of the fluids ; to rouse the languid spirits ; to excite a kindly and genial perspiration, and drive out of the habit, the noxious matter, by every other outlet.

Such were the happy effects of this medicine, in these untoward circumstances ; and by the exhibition of it for two days only, a most salutary consequence followed : nor can we entertain a doubt, but that, had it been given some days sooner, the disorder had been shortened, and the patient freed from much languishing

ing and misery. We blamed ourselves, on reflecting upon this Case, for acting with too much timidity.

Let me not forget this circumstance, that the patient himself observed, that the sweats which followed the medicine, were not excessive and profuse ; but that he felt a genial warmth and glow during their continuance, and came out of them sensibly better and refreshed, whilst the others lowered and weakened ^c him.

It ought to be further noticed, that the medicine was not given rashly and at random. We could not help pausing a whole day (a lost day) doubtful, as things were circumstanced, whether to give it or not. The urgency of the case, however, joined to the foregoing reasoning, and the fullest conviction of its utility, determined us to try it ; and the event speaks for itself.

C A S E V.

JOHN ALLEN, the person mentioned in the last Case, had a return of his rheumatic complaints, about midsummer last,

^c Ην οἵα δεῖ καθαιρεθαι, καθαιρωνται, ξυμφέρει τε καὶ ξυφόρως φέρεσθαι τὰ δὲ ἵναντία, δυσχερώς.

(a twelve-

(a twelvemonth's interval from his former seizure) attended with a smart fever, violent pains in his shoulders, arms, and legs; but without any swellings in his joints. His loins also were so stiff, that he was unable to rise from his seat. All his complaints were aggravated by the warmth of the bed.

On the 2d day of his illness, he had taken, by the advice of some of his friends, a dose of Jalap, which operated very briskly.

His pain and impatience were so great, on the evening of the 3d day, when I first saw him, that he insisted upon something being immediately done for his relief.

Twelve ounces of blood were taken away, and his old medicine, of which he had conceived a good opinion, directed twice a day.

Eight ounces more blood were taken away three days afterwards.

On the 6th, he thought himself entirely well; and desired to walk abroad, which was permitted him, the weather being very fine.

During all this time, he was not confined to his bed; and the medicine generally gave him three, and sometimes four stools, in twenty-four hours.

In about ten days time, I was sent for again, and informed my patient was taken as ill as ever. I found his pulse quick and strong,

strong, and the joints of his fingers swelled a little, and inflamed. He was bled once more, confined to his bed, and the medicine repeated twice a day, for three days ; when a perfect crisis being formed, and the fever and swelling disappearing, the Bark was directed, which in a few days restored him to his usual health and activity.

R E M A R K S.

THIS Case differs from any of the foregoing, more in the manner of treatment, than in any peculiar symptoms in the disorder itself. On the 2d day after the attack, a strong drastic purgative was given. An attempt was made to put a period to the disorder in as speedy a manner as possible, by the united effort of bleeding, and the exhibition of a medicine, of whose adaption to this disorder we had the fullest experience.

The success seemed to answer our utmost expectations ; at least, if we may attribute any effect to the medicine, it was followed with as good success, as the medicine usually given on the like occasions ; and on which practitioners wholly depend : I mean saline, or nitrous draughts, especially, if we take

take into the account, the ^d trifling doses in which they are commonly given. To us they have long appeared, as almost insignificant; and the best that can be said of them in this complaint, at least, is, that they are harmless; and may serve to amuse the patient and bye-standers, till a fair opportunity offer, of doing something more efficacious.

Let it be observed here, that in the former part of Allen's second case, no swell-

^a Dr. Brocklesby in his *medical observations on military diseases*, hath justly reprobated, "the inefficacy of the common practice of physicians, in giving nitre about this town," ordering drams instead of scruples.— "I directed, says he, the following regimen: that, for diet and sustenance, the sick should be enjoined only to drink, for some days successively, the greatest quantities of smooth, boiled water-gruel, that their stomachs would endure; in each quart of it, I directed two drachms of pure nitre to be dissolved, with or without sugar occasionally, and I repeated, at proper intervals, as often as ever the stomach would bear it, large draughts of this nitrous decoction warmed; by which method I often prevailed on the soldiers to take even ten drachms of nitre, or more, the first twenty-four hours, in three, four, five, or six quarts of diluting drink." This was no "presumptuous" attempt in the Doctor; on the contrary, the world is obliged to him for his cautious experiments, and daring to quit the beaten road of practice.—*Monstravit viam.* — I would only take leave to suggest, for the Doctor's reflection, whether the plentiful and profuse sweats were not excited as much, by so great a dilution, as by the sudorific quality of the nitre, especially, if regard is had to the nature of the disorder.

lings

lings appeared. How indeed could it be expected ? For, not to mention the large evacuations made by the dose of Jalap, the common practice of early bleeding might obstruct nature, in her salutary operations, and prevent her, by such premature discharges, from depositing the morbid matter, in her usual manner, on the joints, so copiously as we could have wished.

But mark the event:—though the patient found himself sensibly relieved, nay, thought himself perfectly well, and walked abroad; yet, in no long time, the disorder shewed itself afresh. His fever returned, and his joints swelled, and were slightly inflamed: nor did it appear that this was occasioned by any irregularity, or the accession of cold.

• Dr. Monro, in his account of the diseases of the *Military Hospitals*, says, — “ We had but very few rheumatisms, accompanied with swelling, pain, and inflammation of the joints of the knees and wrists, &c. which are so common in our hospitals about *London*. ” — Is not this sufficiently accounted for, by telling us, that — “ We bled freely, and repeated the evacuation often, if the blood continued fizzy ? ” — For it is very well known, that the patients who are sent to the hospitals in town, have frequently had their complaints upon them a week, a fortnight, or more, before any assistance had, or rather, as we should say, before nature had been obstructed in her salutary operations, by too free, and too frequent evacuations by the lancet.

This

This was exactly the case in his first seizure. After several bleedings, and when the fever had been so far subdued thereby, that a fair opportunity seemed to offer, and it was accordingly embraced, of throwing in the Bark ; yet, notwithstanding, the fever and the pains returned with equal intensity ; nay, possibly, had not the Bark passed off pretty quick by stool, some worse consequences might have ensued.

Nothing, however, could prove more satisfactorily, the safety of the medicine, than the Cafe before us ; wherein it was given, not in the latter stage merely, but almost in the very beginning of the disease, and continued for several days, along with suitable evacuations by the lancet.

It cannot, surely, be objected to the medicine, that it failed of success, because the disorder returned ^f soon afterwards. The same objection would lie, equally, against the use of saline, nitrous, antimonial, and camphorated medicines ; all of which proved ineffectual, in preventing a relapse in this same person, when formerly attacked with this complaint, after the

^f May not the Rheumatism, that *agnatus morbus* to the Gout, as Boerhaave somewhere calls it, assume the pomp of a Cardinal, and appear with his attendants in more fits than one ?

usual indeed, but, in our opinion, the injudicious practice of early and repeated bleedings.

But, if it should be denied us, that any advantage was obtained by the medicine, previous to the relapse ; if the whole of the ease and relief which was procured, should be ascribed, not to the medicine (and we should be unwilling that more should be ascribed to it, than what it justly deserved) but to the loss of blood, it must still be allowed, to be as efficacious, as any medicines in common use.

It ought not by any means to be forgot, that it was at the pressing instigation of the patient, overcome with the most exquisite pain and anguish, that we departed from a general rule, in drawing of blood, both early and freely, and exhibiting too his old remedy, in so recent a stage of the disease. It was the first instance, in which we remember to have done it. The experiment was made with caution ; and such are certainly allowable, when no way hazardous.

But if we are to consider this last attack, not as a fresh disorder, occasioned either by any irregularities or the influence of the season, but as a prolongation of the original complaint (and as such, we did then consider it) let it be remarked, that the

E medicine

medicine was given at the very time, in which we had always given it, viz. in the latter stage of the disorder, when nature appearing to have made her last and full effort to relieve herself, by throwing the peccant matter on the extremities, and evincing, by every other indication, that she was ready for this assistance, gave us the most flattering hopes of a perfect crisis. We succeeded in this last case, as happily as in the first instance, and by the very same means.

C A S E VI.

HAANNAH SKELTON of Lowlayton, aged forty, of a strong make, and full sanguineous habit, was, on the 7th of December, 1773, seized with a sharp pain in both shoulders, which run down to her wrists. She had also flying stitches, or catches (as she called them) about her stomach, which moved hourly from one side to the other, like a dart, and which, at times, affected her breathing. Nature had been obstructed in the *sexual* operation for above ten weeks ; but on the 15th manifested itself again with proper vigour, as when most regular.

On

On the 16th, I found her pulse quick, but low; her thirst considerable, tongue white, both wrists a little swelled, but not inflamed. No swellings in any other part. She was costive, but had taken no medicines.

I directed the medicine, as in the Cases above related, twice a day. On taking the very first dose, the stitches and pains at her stomach entirely ceased, and she was enabled to breathe with ease and freedom. The swellings in her wrists increased, and the joints of the fingers became here and there red, and inflamed. Her ankles also swelled considerably, a day or two afterwards; but without any appearance of redness.

In this method she continued till the 20th; when finding every thing as I could wish, at the extremities, and a disposition to a looseness coming on, I thought proper to relax a little, directing only two drachms of the Volatile Tincture of Valerian, twice a day, leaving directions for taking away as much blood as she could well bear, (being all along faint and weak) as soon as the catamenia had entirely left her. That was done accordingly the next day, and the blood had its usual buffy and sizy appearance. The Guaiacum-draught

E 2 was

was repeated twice a day, from the 22d to the 25th ; when all her complaints ceasing, it was directed only once a day ; and I left her to all appearance perfectly well. On the 7th of January, I was informed, that she remained quite free from her fever and her pains ; but still continued very low. On which I recommended the Bark, and the cold bath.

While these sheets were at the press, *viz.* (12 February) I accidentally met the patient, who informed me she had omitted the cold bath ; but on taking the Bark, grew daily better, and was then in full health.

R E M A R K S.

TH E reader will observe, that this Case continued in hand, longer than any of the former.

Might not this be owing, in some measure, to the season of the year ? Or to the languid state of the fever ? For it was not that active fever, which generally accompanies this disorder, in the spring more especially. And though, after the exhibition of the medicine, the peccant matter

was

was thrown in greater quantity on the wrists, and joints of the fingers, and remarkably so on the ankles, yet might not much of the excrementitious matter be carried off by the natural discharge, which continued for several days? Might not that evacuation contribute also to lower the fever, and prevent its rising to its usual height? Were not the stitches, which affected the patient's stomach, and flew perpetually from side to side, occasioned by the retrocession of the matter from the circumference towards the center, owing to the more than usual languor, and low estate of the patient, or to the flowness of Nature's best instrument, the fever itself? Be that as it may—it appeared to us, of absolute necessity, to drive out the enemy by the most efficacious means we know of, and to keep him at such a distance, as would least enable him to annoy us; and, on some future, and more favourable occasion, to endeavour to force him totally from his entrenchments. The Case itself, and its effects, best speak, whether we were right in our conjectures.

The reader may see here, that the medicine, call it rheumatic, arthritic, or what you please, had shewed that accommodation to this disorder, (if I may so

speak) as to throw the peccant matter from the interior parts, to those extreme ones, where nature, when strong enough, is, in a general way, inclined to deposit it, in order to its elimination.

And now perhaps, at the conclusion of these Cases upon the hot Rheumatism, I may be asked, Would you chuse to give this medicine, under the notion of its having a specific quality, in the rise or increase of this complaint? Perhaps the question is not so easily answered. Besides, it is rarely the lot of the physician to be called in at the commencement of the disorder. In one instance, it hath already appeared what was done, and how the medicine acted.

In our opinion, the latter case of Allen, (to which we refer) Janus-like, hath two faces; for it doth not give us great encouragement to administer it very early in the disease; because the crisis seemed imperfect, and to be the occasion of so quick a return of the disorder. Yet the medicine shewed a certain aptitude, to remove the complaint from the very beginning; and, on its return, with the assistance of one bleeding, to favour its activity, a perfect crisis was produced in three days. All we can say at present is, that if we must take the disorder *out of Nature's hands*, (the constant

constant practice of the most sensible physicians) we should sooner do it by this, than by any other medicine we know of.—As the matter is now before the public, future experiments can alone ascertain, how early in the disease, and with what certain advantage, it may be so given.

As to the medicine itself, it is a gentle openerg, dissolving, by its activity, the coagulated fœces in the bowels, without pain or griping; nor is it a violent sudorific. Possibly it may also fuse and incide the viscid parts of the blood, as it passes through the circulation; or, by invigorating the coats and fibres of the vessels, may restore an equilibrium betwixt the solids and the fluids. But I stop short, least I tread the fairy ground of theory, and pretend to know, what no man living does, or can know.

As to its being hot or cold too,

—————*sub judice lis est;*

I leave that to others, who are much wiser than myself, in the words of Dr. Quincy, when speaking of the virtues of *Campbire* :—"It hath been much de-

⁸ Geoffroy says of the Gum—"Guaiacum crassa incidit
" & attenuat, lenta detergit, obstructa aperit & liberat,
" sudores provocat, urinam ciet, &c. &c. Dolores rheuma-
" ticos dictos tollit, podagram, chyram, ischiada,
" omnemque arthritim mire juvat, &c."

" bated," says he, " whether this be really
 " hot or cold ; its sense upon the palate,
 " at first taking, persuading the former ;
 " and its usefulness in *allaying inflammations*,
 " encouraging the latter opinion. If by
 " warmth is understood such a subtilty of
 " parts, as disposes them to brisk motion,
 " and to agitate what is about them ; this
 " has as good title to be so, as any thing
 " which is not actual fire. And for its
 " *allaying inflammations*, that may be done
 " by the subtilty of its parts, dividing and
 " discussing so far the obstructed humours,
 " that they either perspire, or are taken
 " up again into circulation by the refluent
 " blood."

Philosophy stands neuter in this debate.

Having thus given a pretty full and particular account of a few Cases, which have come before me from the *limited time*, which I had assigned myself, (*viz.* from August 1772, to December 1773,) it may perhaps satisfy the curiosity of some, to be acquainted with my reasons for exhibiting this medicine, not only in a disorder in which I had neither ever seen, heard, or read of its being given ; but also in a quantity so unusually large, as well as so little diluted.

diluted.—Will it ever be imputed as a crime, to vary or exceed the line of common^h practice?

Reasons inducing us to make trial of Tinct.
Guaiac. Vol. in the hot Rheumatism.

THE ample experience I had of the utility of volatiles, in the latter stages of other acute and inflammatory disorders, in which a viscid and fizy disposition of the fluids was apparent, left no doubt with me, that they might be beneficial also in the acute Rheumatism, where there was no discernible difference in the state of the blood. Their great utility in other inflammatory disorders, in the Pleurisy for instance, will be admitted on all hands; if so, what should forbid their use in a complaint, where the state and appearances of the blood are perfectly similar? and in a disorder too, where

^h Dr. Langrish observes, that “ too much credulity in
“ matters of physic has been a principal cause of the slow
“ advancement of that art. An absolute resignation to
“ the opinion of any man, how great soever, without
“ taking proper pains to judge, examine, and search into
“ the truth of it, is a slavish submission, and very unbecoming a rational creature.”

“ Let *great authors* (says Lord Bacon) have their due;
“ but so as not to defraud Time, which is the *Author of Authors*, and the *Parent of Truth.*”

the fever is less dangerous, as, according to Dr. Sydenham, it is apt to go off of itself.

And with regard to the Gum, in the composition of this medicine, if it hath any efficacy in allaying the pains ; or may at all be considered as having a specific quality in the chronic, no good reason could be assigned, as far as appeared to me, why it should not also be given in the acute Rheumatism. Having thus weighed matters, many years ago, in my own mind, I determined to make the experiment ; which turned out agreeably to my expectations and previous reasonings ; and with what manifest advantage I have continued it ever since, let the reader judge for himself, from the Cases above recited. Facts, and not theories, must determine this matter.

No dispensatories, with which I was acquainted, ever speak of the dose exceeding two drams, ¹ i. e. half the quantity in which we have directed it. Few of them carry it so high. Geoffroy, indeed, says,

his

¹ It gives me pleasure to observe, That the anonymous compiler of a little book, entitled, *The London Practice of Physic*, hath, in a second edition, published a few months ago, added a table of the doses of medicines, in which he puts down Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. 3ss. ter die. Whether this table was added to the former impression, I have had no opportunity of knowing. I rather imagine not ; and that the writer was induced to annex it in that quantity,

his Tincture of Guaiacum may be given to half an ounce. Now that is made with Sp. Vin. rectificatissim. not with Sp. Vol. Aromat.—Nor is he so *minute* as to mention, to what degree he diluted it.

During the earlier prosecution of my medical studies, I had never seen it directed otherwise than in drops (so it stands in most writers) or a tea spoonful at a time at most.

I could not therefore but be surprised, afterwards, whilst I was attending Guy's Hospital,—in the years 1754, 1755, and 1756, to find it daily given to the quantity of half an ounce.

It

tity, from what he had heard (when this medicine made so great a noise about the town) rather than from any practical knowledge of the medicine itself. My reasons for thinking so are, (it would give me pain to do the author the least injustice) because in no part of the book is any mention made of the *how*, or *when*, it is to be thus given: and further, from his fixing the dose of the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. at so low a rate, as from gutt. xx. to 3ii. Whereas these two medicines, being made with the very same spirit, no one, it is probable, who had been accustomed to give the one in the quantity of half an ounce, would think of giving the other in a less proportion, on fitting occasions. I have frequently directed Tinct. Valerian. Vol. 3ss. in two ounces of common water, even to ladies, of no very robust constitutions, affected with nervous and hysterick complaints; to some, every six hours, to others twice a day, with the greatest benefit.—A gentleman, who was lately seized with a trembling in his hands, in a morning, which disabled him from holding his pen, was perfectly cured

It was first introduced there, according to the best information I could get, by Dr. Munckley; and might possibly be occasioned by the following circumstance. Mr. Girle, an eminent surgeon, had been for a long time afflicted with a Sciatica, or Hip-Gout; for the removal of which he had taken this Tincture, for a great length of time, but to no purpose. Wearied out with the pain, he applies to Sir Edward Hulse, who asked him, what he had done for himself? On being informed that he had only taken a tea-spoonful of this Tincture; he desired him to continue his medi-

cured by taking the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. as mentioned above, in a very little time, without the least return of the complaint. It may even be given to the quantity of an ounce. And what wonder? For thus I have, in one instance, given even the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. without the least inconvenience, and for which I have sufficient authority, were it necessary to produce it; but it is unquestionably a much more prudent method to give it, as we have generally done, in divided doses.

While I am upon this subject, I may just mention, that the Balsam. Guaiac. the utmost dose of which, is here said to be two drams, may be safely carried higher occasionally. It is usual with me also to give the Balsam. Traumat. to the quantity of half an ounce every six hours: whereas this writer mentions two drams, as being the full dose.

These things are hinted, to encourage a more effectual method of practice, to dispel any timidity in the exhibition of these, or such-like medicines, when directed, and to answer the same intention, with which the book professes to be written, the use of younger practitioners.

cine,

cine, but, instead of taking it by tea-spoonfuls, the ordinary and common quantity, to take table spoonfuls; which he did accordingly, and was thus effectually cured.

— So much for its introduction into that hospital.

As was very natural, I paid a close attention to the manner of exhibiting, as well as to the effects of a medicine, which then appeared so extraordinary.

It was at that time constantly ordered to be taken twice a day, in half a pint of barley-water, in the chronic, but never in the acute Rheumatism. And from an authentic testimony, which I have by me, bearing date November 7th, 1772, it appears unquestionably, that it had never been given there in the *acute*, though its use had all along been retained; and its safety and great utility, in the *chronic* Rheumatism, acknowledged in the fullest manner.

Many persons found a great difficulty, in taking so large a quantity, as a full half pint. The quantity was more objected to, than the medicine itself: and this circumstance alone, I apprehended, occasioned it to be ejected more frequently, than it would have been, had the medicine been comprised in a much less compass. This was often the case; and this circumstance, with the further

ther view of retaining, as much as possible, the volatile part of the medicine, determined me to take the first opportunity, after I had left the house, of reducing the quantity of the diluent, and to make the whole as compact as possible.

After gradual and repeated experiments, I had the happiness to find, that the watery part might, with great ease and safety, be lessened, more than one half: and for many years past, have never directed the medicine in more than three ounces of barley, or common water, which is six times the quantity of the medicine itself, but frequently in less than even that quantity.

By the testimony referred to above, it also appears, that this medicine is now given, in Guy's Hospital, in about a gill.

The following Cases will shew satisfactorily, should it be considered as a matter of great moment, (and it has been so considered) that there are persons, and not a few, who can take it, with great facility, much less diluted.

— servant in a gentleman's family in town, (no stranger to the censure this medicine had undergone) of a tall, thin, leucophlegmatic habit, had, for some days before I saw her, a violent rheumatic pain, (so we called it) affecting more especially

cially one side of her face ; so that she had little ease in the day, and in the night the anguish was intolerable. She was costive, and complained, moreover, of great pain in her stomach.

A full table spoonful of the Tincture (generally supposed to be half an once) was given her, in the presence of the family, in four spoonfuls of common water ; which she took without any difficulty, and which soon eased, a good deal, the pain at her stomach.

In half an hour's time the medicine was repeated, exactly in the same way ; which, in a few hours, entirely removed the pain in her stomach, and not long after the rheumatic pain in her face vanished also.— One in the family, seeing how it succeeded, took the medicine very lately on her own accord, just as above, and cured herself of the same complaint in a very few hours.

A lady, whom no one would suspect of accustoming herself to cordials, or hot liquors, complained of universal coldness, more especially at her stomach, and also of an acute pain in her gums, and one side of her face. She was costive, and the circulation appeared much too languid.

The medicine was given exactly as in the last Case. On taking the first quantity,

tity, she perceived no warmth at her stomach. All the warmth she experienced was in her mouth, as she expressed it. On exhibiting a second dose, an hour afterwards, she felt a genial warmth universally; and passed the night much more free from pain, than any of late. Not willing however to rest the cure on this medicine alone, the Bark was directed; and in a day or two all her complaints vanished.

These instances may suffice, should they answer no other purpose, to convince us, that the medicine is a perfectly safe one, when the Cafes are proper, even when diluted to no greater degree. But should any one contend here for the necessity of great dilution, it would seem an immaterial circumstance, whether this is done at the very instant of taking the medicine, or at proper intervals afterwards.

After what has been advanced above, it is something surprizing, that a medicine, which has been in daily use for a great number of years, in one (and in one only) of our public hospitals, should on no occasion have been prescribed by the physicians of that house, in what is called their *private* practice. No instance, at least, could be produced, of its having been directed abroad, after a most diligent search through the

the town, the last year but one. Nay, some of the oldest apothecaries, and of the most extensive practice, had acknowledged, they could not remember ^k ever to have seen or heard of its having been so prescribed.

The following Case will not only shew to what degree this medicine may, on some occasions, be given, and how little diluted¹, but

^k It is but justice to Dr. Brocklesby to add, That, in the military hospitals, he gave daily the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. from half an ounce to six drams, diluted in two quarts of well-boiled gruel, in the *cold* Rheumatism. And I have been credibly informed, he hath, on some occasions, done the same *out* of the hospitals.

¹ I may mention here, that there seems to be no occasion to reduce the diluent any further. From two to three ounces, seems to be the proper medium, for such subjects, at least, as have appeared in the Cases themselves. It may be taken in this way without difficulty, is easiest retained in the stomach, and seems in general sufficiently compact. But it ought to be observed further, that in the variety of cases which must occur, circumstances will greatly vary, and no restriction ought to be laid upon the discretion of the physician.

For at the moment I am writing, there is a lady, an arthritic patient of mine, whose delicate and irritable constitution will not bear even a single dram of the medicine under consideration, as I am well assured, without exciting the greatest ruffle and commotion. But I say this in perfect reliance on the information given me, not daring, after the account I had received, to exhibit it even in the smallest quantity. But this should form no reasonable objection to the medicine; for the Bark itself cannot always be taken in Intermittents. I mean not, however, to draw a comparison betwixt the two medicines. All I would suggest, is, that an allowance must be made for that idiosyncracy, or peculiarity of constitution, which may be met with in particular persons.—After we had, by

but disclose also what was possibly little expected, but what is unquestionably of infinitely more consequence.

And now the reader is going to be introduced to a few Cases in that formidable distemper, *the Gout*, which will probably give him some flattering hope, that much good may arise to mankind, from our having increased the powers, and extent of this medicine, by enlarging the dose, making it more compact, and by more frequent repetitions of it.

other means, brought the swelling, which had seized her right hand, to its full maturity, and it became red and inflamed, being then in the most exquisite pain, seven ounces of blood were taken away; which had exactly the same appearance as in the Pleurisy, or acute Rheumatism, though no fever was present. This gave the patient considerable, and almost immediate relief. Sal. Volatile was then recommended, being almost the only medicine she could bear, as a cordial, and with the further view of resolving the s^{zy} disposition of the fluids. The Bark, and the Cold bath, were also advised. But whether the advice was in any respect followed, I have had no opportunity of knowing.

I could not help reflecting, however, that even in this very delicate case, the Gum, and the Volatiles, might have been given with advantage in a separate state, had we had time for further trials.

C A S E I.

***M**R. SAMUEL TAYLOR, of Clapton, aged 62, of a florid complexion, and thin habit of body, had enjoyed a good state of health, till the year 1760, when he was instantly struck with a palsey, which affected all the right side; but from which he, in a good measure, recovered speedily, by the usual treatment, except that he was not bled; a very common, but oftentimes, an injudicious practice, in paralytic cases. His right leg and thigh continued weak and feeble many years afterwards.

In March 1772, he was as suddenly attacked with a violent pain at his stomach; for the removal of which, whatever attempts had been made, they proved unsuccessful.

On the 12th, I found him in the most exquisite torture; free, indeed, from all fever, and, notwithstanding the greatness of his pain, his pulse was perfectly calm and regular. Though he had formerly been a *bon vivant*, there was no reason however to

F 2 suspect,

suspect, that his pains were occasioned by any injury done to any of the viscera. It was most probable, that his present disorder was of a gouty nature, having formerly had slight fits thereof. His knees were in great pain, and much swelled afterwards.

Being very costive, an opening tincture, with warm cordial draughts, were directed for him.

On the 14th, complaining with some degree of severity, that what was prescribed, did by no means assuage his pains, or reach his ease, as he expressed it; three drams of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. were directed, in two ounces and a half of barley water, night and morning. This eased his pains something; but still insisting that it was not strong enough, on the 15th, half an ounce of the Tincture was ordered, diluted in the same manner. From this he found considerable relief, and persisted in the use of it till the 21st; when his pain returning in a slight degree, he grew somewhat impatient, and earnestly requested, that the draughts might be made stronger. Finding they had no other tendency, but just to keep his body moderately open, his request was complied with; and the half ounce

ounce directed in two ounces of common water every six hours, and continued three days successively. This never gave him more than three motions ^m in twenty-four hours, entirely removed the pain in his stomach, abated both the pain and swelling in his knees, and had no inconsiderable good effect on his paralytic limbs. He never had the least return of the disorder at his stomach, from that day to this; and was so far from complaining of the draught being too strong, that he frequently requested to have it made stronger; but his request would not be complied with.

* Mr. DOWNING, Apothecary.

^m Those who are accustomed to prepare this Tincture, will find, that sometimes near a fourth part of the Gum remains undissolved, unless carefully chosen; and if to this consideration we add, what is frequently lost by standing and otherwise, it is not probable, that, one time with another, much more than 25 gr. are contained in half an ounce of the Tincture. But we confess our trials, hitherto, have not been very exact on this head.

Let it be observed, this is not the first Case by manyⁿ, in which I have for several years given this medicine in the Gout, with such success, as will appear in the following Cases. For I do confidently hope the Gout, if not curable in all cases, may certainly admit of much mitigation and relief, whatever may have been advanced to the contrary, especially where nature has not been too long in the habit of producing gouty matter.

Nay, I am not without hopes in the more inveterate cases: and proper trials shall be made in future, even where chalky concretions subsist.

ⁿ By way of date, to shew how long we have thus treated the Gout, and how perfect a crisis is sometimes obtained in that disorder, we put down the two following instances, being the earliest, which, at present, occur to our recollection; in neither of which did it ever return, though it is now above eleven years ago, that the patients were affected by it. For the present, I barely mention their names. The first, Mr. Hawtings, a publican at Rumford, who hath, from his manner of living, (to use his own expression) been entitled to it many times since; and his apothecary also, * Mr. Frost, who seeing the good effects of the medicine on his patient, cured himself of it, by the very same means; nor did I ever hear of his having any return of it. Amongst his other encomiums on the medicine, he said, laughingly, It should, from that time, stand in his books under the title of *Hausus Podagratus*. This last gentleman died a few months ago, of a dropsey; and, indeed, it is a wonder he lived so long, considering how little care he took of himself.

The

The innocence of the medicine I warrant, if given with skill and physical judgment.

That the cure shall be so radical and permanent, that the disorder will never return, I cannot warrant. That cannot be done in any other disorder whatsoever. In time, possibly, a radical cure may be found out. But before this can ever be expected, several reigning prejudices, both amongst medical persons and others, must be removed, to pave the way for success in any researches after it ; and some of them are of such a nature, that I chuse not to mention them in this place.

And now that the matter is out, and I have broke in upon my original design, I do not grudge mankind the knowledge of my little attempts ; but am sorry that they are wrenched from me, by the ignorance and cruelty of a few individuals. A little longer time would have made the publication, both more convenient for myself, and ushered them into the world with more advantage.

That I may not appear too sanguine, in those confidential hopes I have expressed, give me leave to quote a memorable passage, from the most capital writer, later ages have produced—“ But the radical cure of

the *Gout* is yet a secret; nor do I know when, or by whom it will be discovered. I hope, nevertheless, that I have contributed, in some degree, to the good of mankind by this treatise, by faithfully pointing out those rocks, whereon myself and many others have split, subjoining likewise the best method of cure, which I have hitherto discovered, which is all I promise; though, after long consideration, I *cannot help thinking, that such a remedy will be found out hereafter*; and if ever this should happen, it will *betray the ignorance of the theorists*, and clearly shew how notoriously they are mistaken in the knowledge of the causes of diseases, and in the medicines they give to cure them. We have a plain proof of this in the *Peruvian Bark*; the best specific in Intermittents; for, how many ages had the most acute physicians spent in searching into the causes of Intermittents, and adapted such methods of cure as were best suited to their several theories? But how little honour those methods did to the theories whereon they were founded, appears from a late instance in the practice of those, who, ascribing the various kinds of Intermittents, to the redundancy of different humours in the body, ordinarily attempted the cure by altering

altering and evacuating these humours ; which succeeded ill with them, as is manifest from their failure, but especially from the more successful use of the Bark ; by the help of which, if given in a proper manner, we commonly answer the end effectually, without regarding those humours, diet, or regimen ; unless the patient be unnecessarily *kept in bed*, whilst he is taking it ; in which case, however, so efficacious is this medicine, that it seldom fails curing the patient, notwithstanding this inconvenience of increasing the disease by the warmth of the bed. In the mean time, till the *radical cure of the Gout be found out*, (which all physicians, and myself in particular, *ought to wish for*) I intreat the reader to receive this little treatise in a favourable manner ; but if he should not, I am so well acquainted with the tempers of mankind, that it will be no great disappointment to me ; and I know my duty so well, that I shall not be discouraged thereat."

Thus speaks the Oracle to modern ages ! brought over from ancient Greece to Great Britain, where it now utters its prophecies, and is consulted by all the civilized nations in the world ! and, inspired by nature, it will continue speaking to all future ages !

This

This passage, long ago, deeply impressed my mind. A specific in the Gout! That *opprobrium medicorum* for such a number of ages! Could the wise Sydenham entertain so visionary a hope? So it was. And yet he was not the wild Visionary, or aerial Theorist. But perhaps he might speak the wishes of his heart, rather than the dictates of his understanding, as no man ever possessed more benevolence.

The real case seems to be this, and the passage itself shews, that he had in his eye the Bark, that great specific in Intermittents, which led him to hope, that some providential accident, or experiment, might, at one time or other, bring to light a specific for the Gout also. The disputes among physicians, in his day, had well nigh dismissed it from the *Materia Medica*, with the ignominy of being pernicious, or useless at least; and doomed it to the unworthy fate of many other valuable medicines, which are now suffering hard durance in some neglected corner of the apothecary's or druggist's shop. He had just rescued the Bark from this vile treatment, before he gave the finishing hand to his fine Treatise on the Gout, by exhibiting both its innocence, and its eminent medicinal qualities in his own practice, call-

ing loudly upon the physicians in his time, to give it in a more free and liberal manner; for which he, and no one else, deserves the title of the father of this specific, except you will allow the honour of it to the man who barely peels the Bark, in the mountains of Peru. Had he not rescued it from this intended disgrace and oblivion, and taught its use, this *magnum Dei donum* had been lost for ever; and medicine, for want of one leg, been obliged to walk upon crutches ever after.

This lamented event did follow—While rival, and selfish physicians were contending about the matter, Dr. Sydenham lost the honour of such a noble improvement; and the faculty the credit it would have done them, of coming from one of their own body. But the note below will gratify the curiosity^o of some readers, and excite

^o Dr. Baker, in his enquiry into the Epidemic Fever, after observing, That by the common method of giving medicines, in trifling and insufficient doses, good ones are but too often brought into disrepute, the intention of the physician frustrated, and patient's expectation disappointed, acquaints us, that physicians ran into this error formerly, with relation to the bark, through an over cautiousness; and that Sydenham was the first that broke through this constraint, and ventured to give it in large doses I have a letter of his, (he adds) in manuscript, now before me, wherein he says, “ I have had but few trials, but I am “ sure, that an ounce of bark, given between the two fits, “ cures, which the physicians in London, not being pleased “ to

cite the indignation of others, who may have any regard to the honour of the faculty, and the general interest of mankind.

" to take notice of in my book, or not believing me, have given an opportunity to a fellow, that was but an *apothecary's man*, to go away with all the practice on " agues ; by which he has got an estate in two months, " and brought great reproach on the faculty." This letter was writ in October 1677, which falls in so exactly with the time of *Talbor's* first appearance, as a practitioner, (for we have an account of his being in France in 1679) that Sydenham must certainly allude to him ; and it appears from hence, that Sydenham was the person who struck out the method of giving an ounce of *bark* between the fits, instead of a dram or two, which was the usual dose before that time ; which method Sir Robert Talbor has generally hitherto had the credit of, and for which he was knighted by King Charles the Second.

It were to be wished, for the benefit of mankind, that *physicians* would imitate Sydenham's practice more than is usually done, in this particular ; since there is no possibility of discovering, except by this means alone, how far the powers of medicines extend.

Geoffroy informs us, (without the least notice of our Sydenham) that Lewis XIV. that great patron of the useful, as well as the polite arts, purchased of Sir Robert Tabor, or Talbot, (knighted by Charles the Second) his secret manner of exhibiting the Bark ; and ordered large quantities to be bought up for the use of his hospitals. He adds further, that he gave it not by scruples or drams, " sed ad uncias & libras ascendebat."

C A S E II.

JAMES HARVEY, a joiner, of Stoke Newington, aged twenty-seven, of an athletic constitution, and complexion rather pallid, was, on the 6th of January, 1773, seized with an acute pain in his right ankle, all on a sudden, as he sat by the fire-side. He had before that enjoyed a good state of health for many years, and till the very moment his ankle became affected, thought himself, and was thought by every one else, in perfect health, and had gone through his usual labour on that day.— Before morning it shifted with great violence to the toes of the left leg, on which the swelling and pain of the right ankle considerably abated.

The 8th, he was attacked with a looseness, which continued two days, and reduced him very much.

The 10th, the pain flew to his left knee; and on the 12th, when he came to me, it remained there, but principally affected his left hand, which was extremely red and angry, and swelled to a considerable size, disabling him from any kind of work.

His pulse was low, weak, and rather quick,

quick, his tongue white, his urine turbid, high coloured, depositing a considerable sediment. I directed for him the Tincture, which was taken six nights running. On the 8th, the pain, swelling, and redness of his hand was much abated, and he was in every respect so much relieved, that he spoke with seeming confidence of being able to return soon to his usual labour.

I then advised him to take his medicine twice a day, which he did for three days; and on the 21st, he thought himself perfectly well, and returned to his work, which he prosecuted without much impediment. Meeting with him by accident (February 6th) he informed me he had some slight returns of his complaint, which chiefly affected his right knee and ankle, and was desirous of taking his medicine again. I advised rather to take an ounce of Bark leisurely, and a spoonful of Spirit. Vol. Arom. at bed-time; with which he complied, and has remained well ever since.

C A S E III.

MR. M'ENNA, a publican, in the 50th year of his age, an athletic, well-made man, of a florid complexion, whose situation in life exposed him to live rather freely, had been subject to the Gout the last eight years. He had a severe attack in his feet, the severest he had ever experienced, on the 2d of May, 1773. I saw him on the 18th, the medicine was given him that night and the next morning. In the evening (though before unable to move from his seat) he met me with expressions full of gratitude and astonishment; saying, That he was so far from expecting a cure for the Gout, that he scarce believed he should have found even any relief.—He was requested to continue his medicine twice, or once a day, at least, for a little time, and then to follow it with the Bark and the Cold bath. But whether any part of the advice was complied with, I had no opportunity of informing myself, having quitted his late residence.

C A S E

C A S E . IV.

WI利IAM GOODMAN, in Shore-ditch parish, aged 70; a remarkably stout, robust man, of a full habit, had been afflicted with the Gout above 25 years. He had had it (I take the account from his own mouth) in every part of his body, except his shoulders; in his head, stomach, toes, feet, knees, and hands. His feet and hands have swelled to so great a degree, as to be ready to burst, which disabled him from feeding, or turning himself in bed. He hath a thousand times wished for death; and on many occasions his case hath been concluded as desperate, and his death near at hand.

Early the last spring I found him unable to stir from his seat, or to do the most ordinary action without assistance. He took the medicine twice a day, for four days, just in the way we have so often related; and to his own amazement, and that of his acquaintance, went abroad after his own occupation in a week's time; and is now in as perfect health, and as free from any infirmity, as a man of seventy can be expected to be; nor has he had a single attack

tack of his gouty complaint since he first took his medicine.

I could have wished to have followed it with the Bark, if not with the Cold bath. But certain strong prejudices, that the disorder was incurable, and that no mitigation, even of his present pain, could be hoped for, as they had well nigh precluded any further attempts to remove his complaints, so they determined him, as they have done many others, to use his own expression, to *rest* while he was *well*. And perhaps, considering his time of life, he was in the right.

C A S E V.

RICHARD FOX, of Stoke Newington, a glazier and painter, aged thirty-three, of middle stature, and thin habit, had been afflicted with the Gout from nine years of age. His last attack was about the middle of May, 1773, when a violent pain seized the great toe of his left foot, which in a little time run through his foot and up his leg to his knee, and continued in that limb for several days and nights, so that he could

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get

get no rest. Afterwards it began to swell to a violent degree, and grew red and fiery, which gave him some ease, but left that limb perfectly useless. From thence it removed into his other foot and leg, attended with partly the same effect; so that he was now totally disabled from walking. The pain, after some time, removed from his feet and legs into his hands and arms, and took the use of them away likewise.

In this situation he applied to his apothecary, who informed him his complaint was the Gout; and besides the medicines he thought it adviseable to give him, recommended Brandy and water, and Madeira, for his common drink; his directions were punctually complied with for some weeks. The patient, finding no benefit, and growing daily worse and worse, makes a warm appeal to his apothecary; informing him very plainly, that if he could procure him no further relief, it was impossible he could live under so desperate a disorder; for the pain now attacked his stomach, nor could he lie down in bed without great difficulty, owing to a tightness, or catching in his breast, as he expressed himself. His legs also lost their former redness, and became remarkably swollen, shining, and dropsical.

And

And the poor man was consigned over to patience and to flannel.

In these deplorable circumstances, he was brought to me, supported by his friends. A more deplorable case cannot fall to the lot of any man.

It seems unnecessary to add any thing further, in relation to his case; except, that his pulse was quick, but weak and low, his thirst considerable, his general habit costively inclined, and, lastly, debilitating night-sweats had of late pursued him.

In cases complicated like this, it is oftentimes a difficulty, at what point to assail the enemy. We had ^P here the Gout evidently complicated with the Dropsy and Asthma. But a new difficulty arose. It was by no means improbable, that the deleterious quality of the lead (the patient having for many years wrought in paint) might, if not lay the foundation, at least aggravate part of the complaints.

But, supposing that to be the case, (and this was a circumstance highly deserving of attention) it was an additional motive for

^P Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra concessit; quandoque vero in asthma: horum vero successio inevitabilis est.

the exhibition of our medicine, not knowing any thing of equal efficacy in paralytic cases, evidently arising from this cause. The Tincture, therefore, was given him in full quantity, in the presence of his friends, which he was desired to take leisurely. This gave him great relief at his stomach, before the next morning ; and it was continued through the whole of his illness, at proper intervals, in the quantity of two drams only, with a view of keeping the gouty matter at the extremities, and thus finally expelling it out of the habit. Cordial Confection and Volatiles, were directed at intervals, and his strength supported by generous diet. Blisters were applied ; first, betwixt his shoulders, afterwards to his legs, and one on his left breast, the pain fixing there with great violence. By these means he grew better, though slowly ; is now, and has been for many months, perfectly well.

Possibly, in the course of the cure, I might direct him a Lac. Ammon. mixture, with Oxymel and Volatiles ; and, towards the latter end of the disorder, a decoction of the Bark with Confection, as my common way is ; but, whether I did or not, I cannot now tell, as I write from memory, not being then determined, either to publish this, or indeed any of the former Cases ;

and have not time now to collect my prescriptions.

Should any one be curious to know this, or whether any thing else of importance is omitted in the Case, I must refer him to the apothecary, Mr. John.

C A S E . VI.

WI利IAM CLARE, aged 39, of a pallid complexion, thin, spare habit, and low stature, formerly dealt in paint; and, in the year 1766, was first attacked with a fit, which lay in his bowels. (I take this account from himself.) By the assistance which was immediately procured him, the pain, which first seized his bowels, was, in no long time, translated to his legs. In about a month after, he had another attack, and was then advised to quit grinding colours, and to follow the farming businesſ.

In half a year's time he was attacked again in his ancles, and hath had it ever since twice a year; sometimes in the spring, sometimes in the summer.

His last attack was about the middle of November 1773. On the 1st of December I was sent for, and found him confined to his bed, and unable to stir almost a single limb, and in intolerable anguish. His wrists and knees, as well as his ankles, now swelled exceedingly, which they had never done on any former occasion. An acute pain also affected his right groin ; the swellings were not red and inflamed, but glossy and shining. His pulse was quick, his tongue white, thirst considerable, urine high-coloured, thick, and deposited a lateritious sediment. He was, moreover, generally costive ; but, on the day I saw him, had two stools ; on which account, after taking away seven ounces of blood, which had exactly the same appearance as in the Pleurify or acute Rheumatism, gutt. xii. Tinct. Thebaic. were added to the Guaiacum-draught that night, and repeated twice in the same way the next day. On the 3d he had two motions, and nothing was given him on that day. The fourth day, the draught was ordered to be taken every night only, and without the opiate. But he found himself so well, it was taken but once. He walked abroad the next day, and has followed his usual occupation ever since,

since, in perfect freedom from all his complaints.

I have, in the strongest manner, recommended to him the Cold bath, as a general bracer and strengthener; and can with the strictest truth affirm, that in the great variety of gouty and rheumatic cases, which have come before me, I never saw the least inconvenience from it; but, on the contrary, the greatest benefit. Nothing will so effectually prevent a relapse in either case, if they are to be considered as at all different. It is as much to be depended upon, as the Bark itself; and greatly to be lamented, that a most groundless prejudice too frequently obstructs its use in the intervals of gouty complaints.

* Mr. WARREN, Apothecary,

THESE few Cases, which I have now laid before the world, are all that have occurred to me, within the limits of that time, to which I have confined myself. Had they been more, the reader should have had more. At present, it seems needless to trouble the public with any observations upon them. They have seen the operation of this particular medicine, and my general treatment, and are left to draw their own conclusions from the facts before them.

This one conclusion, at least, I should think, would be made by every one, whether a medical person, or otherwise; That, if this medicine should come into general use, and produce a proportionable effect in this torturing disorder, the benefit to the public would be immense. And these Cases, few as they are, may possibly shew —*ex pede Herculem.*

Many are the observations, which I have made, upon the Gout, and the above Cases have also afforded me some. But it may be prudence in a medical, as well as in

in other writers, to suppress some idea, which may occur to him, till the number and variety of the Cases shall realize his hopes, and confirm his observations; or give him occasion to change his sentiments; as all depends upon fact and experience.

Only thus much we may observe, that the Gout, as well as the Rheumatism, hath its variations, and its critical seasons; and that the *when* and the *how* this medicine is to be administered, is as carefully to be attended to in this, as in any other disorder, without descending to a more minute detail upon the subject.

No prudent person will therefore conclude, that the physician's art is precluded by this medicine, or be so wanting to himself, as not to look out for relief from those, on whose medical skill and ability he can best rely for advice. On the contrary, scarce any disorder requires it more. For if it should be (as is most probable) Nature's intention, in every fit of the Gout, to depurate arthritic matter, what can be more dangerous, than rashly to *tamper* with it, and unseasonably obstruct her designs, by an undistinguishing administration of the medicine, till further experiments shall evince, whether it is seasonable

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at all times, and in every stage of this disorder?

This advice will be necessary, unless we could assure the world, that we had, under our management, a specific for this disorder. But to this *ultimatum* of our wishes, we have not yet arrived.

Eft quoddam prodire tenus.

Will the Bark be called a Specific in Intermittents? Certainly it will. But, will it always answer, and alone? Is it never necessary to precede it with Emetics, to accompany it with Bitters, or to follow it with the Cold bath? All then that can be rationally meant, when this noble medicine itself, is called a Specific in Intermittents, is, that it is more infallible than any other remedy, and that, on which we can place general confidence. But we repeat it, that we do not mean to run a comparison betwixt the two medicines, or that we can place the same confidence in the one, as we can in the other, in the diseases to which they are respectively applied; but rather to express the contrary, in order to excite a proper degree of caution, in the use of the medicine, and a due attention to the various and multiform appearances this disorder sometimes puts on; without a careful

careful attention to which, discredit will fall upon the best and most valuable medicines.

Si vera incessu patuit Dea.

which may well be applied to the Cortex as a Specific, there would be the less occasion for the caution. It might then insist upon its privilege, and demand free admission, without waiting for those tedious forms and ceremonials, which art prescribes to other medicines, be introduced on almost any occasion, and the *Divinity* left to effect her salutary purposes, in her own mysterious and incomprehensible manner.

We pretend not to know what the Gout is ; whether it consists in an affection of the solids, or some indisposition of the fluids, or both ; any further, than that we plainly see, it is a frequent depuration of some offensive matter, which, without knowing what it is, we call, in the language of physic, morbid, or peccant. Nor is it material to tell the world, which of the various conjectural theories, we are most inclined to adopt. And,

As to the distinction of this disorder into sanguineous, biliary, and pituitous, which hath long obtained, it is to be feared, we have

have not sufficient ground, to make a discrimination of this nature; and the only distinction we attend to in practice, (and the distinction is well worthy of attention) is, a Gout *with*, and a Gout *without* a fever.

To search into the remote causes of this, as well as of many other disorders, will be but fruitless labour; because these do not fall under the cognizance of our senses; and it would be one proof of the physician's knowledge of the narrow limits of the human understanding, to content himself with observing the more immediate, and visible symptoms of the disease; its approach, and attack, its progress, state, and declination, with its various indications, that he may learn to form the truest judgment, both as to the event of the disorder, and the best method of cure.

But, suppose we could arrive at this knowledge, or had some new and favourite theory of our own to give the public, respecting the remote or immediate causes of this disorder, we must still say with the Poet,

Nunc non erit his locus.

We have all along proceeded upon a much humbler plan. Far from the audacious

dacious attempt of rising to the heights of theoretic fancy, we have satisfied ourselves with being servile and menial operators, in the essay of one particular medicine, with a view of enlarging its efficacy, and extending its use to arthritic complaints in general; in which idea we include both the Acute and Chronic Rheumatism, the Gout *with*, and *without* a fever.

If we have not been so honourably, yet we have certainly been usefully, employed. For few things have so much hindered the progress of physic, as the insufficient doses, in which this, and some other medicines, are usually given. A deficiency, in this respect, had well nigh lost us the Bark. And it is much to be questioned, whether it hath not lost us the virtues we might have received from the Guaiacum; which was formerly considered as a Specific in a different disorder. However, it was certainly used with great success formerly, and that it is now in less estimation, may perhaps be owing to this reason only.

Much, we acknowledge, is left undone, and many experiments lie open to the attempts of others on this head. Ours have hitherto been chiefly confined to the Gum, in its compound state with the Volatile. As we found them amicably, and harmoniously

niously joined together, we have not as yet been induced to divorce ^a them ; but give it as our conjectural opinion, that, besides this compound medicine, much benefit might arise from the Gum in substance, the Balsam. Guaiac. Tinctures, and strong decoctions of the wood itself, at the conclusions of the fit in the acute Rheumatism or Gout, and more especially in tedious and chronic cases, whether of the one or the other.

But whatever experiments of this kind may be made, by the industry and attention of others, it will be altogether idle and fruitless to apply any of the different preparations of this drug, in small and insignificant doses ; as if we were handling poison,

^b " When volatile alcalious salts, or spirits (says Dr. Huxham) " are taken in large quantities, and frequently, " even by persons in health, they bring on feverish heats, " hæmorrhages, spungy, bleeding gums, stinking breath, " rank urine, &c."—Such effects might possibly be observed by the Doctor, situated in a sea-port town, where great variety of scorbutic cases might be expected to occur ; but such effects, I am persuaded, from a long and liberal use of volatiles, rarely happen in more inland situations.

^c Let the singularity of the practice (if any thing can do it) apologize for the conduct of a certain apothecary, who could content himself with sending one dram of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. when four were directed, in a *paralytic case* ; when the usual methods of treatment had failed ; and in a case too, in which he himself hath since acknowledged the medicine

poison, or prescribing Night-shade, Hemlock, or some of the more dangerous preparations of Mercury. On the contrary, they ought to be given liberally, so as to impregnate the blood and juices with them, and create an alteration in the arthritic habit.

And for our encouragement in experiments of this sort, which are no ways hazardous, we may observe, that of all the vast and numerous tribes of medicines, which present themselves to us in the *Materia Medica*, the Guaiacum seems to step forward from the crowd, with the most promising appearance, hath the fairest report, and the most creditable testimonials, if we have but the wisdom to do it justice in our future trials of its services.

And suffer us, as we pass along, to drop this hint, that our wishes and enquiries, after something of still further benefit to mankind in this disorder, are more likely to

medicine was strongly indicated. The irregularity of such a conduct, in respect both of morals and practice, was totally inexcusable, on any other ground than that of timidity, arising from the novelty of the prescription. It was a little unfortunate, that he omitted, like some other gentlemen, to express to me his distrust of the medicine; as it would have afforded an opportunity of explaining my intention; when I should have given him to understand, his dram, under the *then* circumstances, would be as ineffectual as a dram of water.

be

be crowned with success, by a much freer use of the many salutary medicines, whether of the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, which are in our possession, joined to the assistance, which may be derived from chemical preparations, than from any new accession to the *Materia Medica*.

It is a common foible of human nature, to seek for that abroad, which may be found at home ; and in the pursuit of shadowy expectations, from new discoveries, to lose advantages we are already possessed of. And, ill shall we be prepared for any new discoveries, if, by any spiritless, and insignificant trials, the medicinal virtues of those, already in our hands, continue to escape our notice.

In vain have been the labours of a Linnaeus, the travels of a Banks and Solander ; in vain shall we ransack the vegetable system in new worlds, since, whatever valuable discoveries may be brought to us, they must thus inevitably share the same unhappy fate with former ones ; for whilst we continue in this habit, their hidden virtues will escape us, for want of due and sufficient trials ; serving only to croud our shops, distract practitioners, or, at most, to enrich with exotics our gardens and hot-houses.

Our

Our curiosity may be thus gratified, even to luxury ; but medicine receive not the smallest advantage from the acquisition.

I cannot forbear, in this place, to use the words of an excellent writer, who, enumerating the obstacles to the improvement of physic, mentions giving *small* doses as one,—“ for while physicians (says he) have been over cautious in their prescriptions, they have fallen into the inconvenience of doing the patient no service ; and, to confess the truth, I suspect, they more generally err this way at present, while they order drams of plants for an infusion, where ounces would be more proper. On the other hand, mountebanks, and quacks, men of an intrepid mind, and invincible impudence, oftentimes make a cure, when the physician of probity fails.”—Thus,

Iliacos intra muros peccatur & extra.

This passage caught my attention many years ago, and has occasionally recurred to my mind, during my experiments on this and some other medicines, when I was not dealing with edged tools, or prescribing substances of a dangerous or deleterious quality ; not with a view of finding out some specious nostrum, to be industriously

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concealed from public inspection, but to give the greater efficacy to my own prescriptions, in the fair and regular course of practice. And I now present the above sentiment to others, who may perhaps judge it as worthy of their attention, as many other things to be met with in medical writers.

Though we dare not presume to have made any very near approaches to a Specific¹, or to dignify our medicine with any such high title; yet, surely, the world will take it kindly of us, in having, to the best of our power, expressed our good wishes to mankind; thinking it our duty, whenever there appears the least opening towards so desirable an object, to pursue it,

¹ We have not dared to bestow upon the medicine a higher appellation, than that of an *aptitude*, and *accommodation*; words borrowed from another writer, on a different occasion—“ Medicamentum materiæ expurgandæ ”—“ accommodatum ”— Though an ingenious author is not shy, in declaring his belief,—“ That the notion which has, and still does prevail among some physicians, that the doctrine of Specifics is groundless, and took its rise merely from ignorance in natural philosophy, is one obstacle to the advancement of physic.”

He adds further—“ I cannot help thinking, that the want of true and genuine philosophy, ought rather to be imputed to those who deny, than to those who maintain the doctrine of Specifics; and that we might as well undertake to open all locks with one key, as purge all humours with one medicine.”

till some insurmountable obstacle in the road, or extreme danger, convince us, that our labour is in vain, and warns us to proceed no further; and if our attempts to make so great a discovery should be charged solely to our ambition; yet if these have proceeded upon medical principles, and been so cautiously conducted, that not the least harm hath arose from them, in one single instance in our practice, they cannot justly be entitled to a severer censure, than what candour will say with regret, and envy with pleasure;

—*Magnis tamen excidit ausis.*

For Dr. Sydenham says, such a discovery is what he himself did, and all physicians ought to wish for.

There is some merit and humanity in keeping up the hopes of mankind, and not hastily consigning them over to patience and to flannel; for, as to the first, the proverb writes it, a Medicine proper only for a Mad Dog. And as to the other, its supposed utility in the Gout is very questionable, from this circumstance—that per-

sions, who get abroad into the air the soonest, mend the fastest^t.

Nil desperandum,

Is a much better prescription, as it will prompt us to future enquiries. And who knows what the separate, or united labours of many able and sensible practitioners may produce, when roused to the proper exertion of themselves? Or, if their united art should fail, who can tell what assistance we may receive, if the *Religio Medici* will permit us to take into the account the *το θειον τι*, which mingles itself with all human affairs? or that Providence, which, by its imperceptible and mysterious workings, hath already brought to light discoveries of the greatest importance, in the prevention or cure of disorders, by means which we call accidental; and which, to mortify the vanity of human science, have been revealed

^t Celsus says, “ The parts affected in the Gout should be exposed freely to the cold—*Objiciendumque frigori.*”

Doctor Dover also adds, “ Keeping the part warm is wrong; because it is *proprium caloris attrahere*, and does, beyond doubt, attract gouty matter to the parts.”

to us by the instrumentality of the ignorant and illiterate^u ?

But if the wisdom of Providence should not think proper to favour us with a discovery, and the art and enquiries of the numerous able practitioners should still fail us, in the investigation of a real Specific in the Gout, (by which I mean, such a method of cure, as will succeed in most cases, or by which we can assure ourselves of a cure in most given circumstances) yet the support of our hope, with the renewal of our endeavours, upon the plan, on which we have hitherto proceeded, and which we have recommended to others, must be followed with some considerable advantage. If the full object of our wishes is not to be attained, yet, stimulated in this enquiry by hope, it may lead us on to such discoveries and improvements, as may, however, greatly reduce the sufferings of mankind from this severe disorder.

If we can abbreviate the fits, ease the pain, assist Nature in a more perfect depuration, and elimination of arthritic matter ;

^u What wonders hath not the old Grecian woman done by inoculation, with the point of her needle, and our Sutton with the point of his lancet ? — Do we not also owe the first knowledge of the Bark to the illiterate Indian, who taught its use to the Spaniard ?

and,

and, along with this, strengthen the habit for the future; or, if by any prophylactic method, we can prevent the frequency of the fits, and perform all this with entire safety, and without the danger of inducing any other complaint; every humane person would congratulate mankind upon such advantages, though far short of a complete and radical cure.

For ourselves, were we conscious that we could reduce a tenth, twentieth, or even a much less proportion of human misery, arising from this disorder, our ambition, if not our wishes, would be fully satisfied; and, sensible of the inestimable benefit mankind must receive from such a diminution of misery, we should experience that pleasure from the reflection, which is preferable to the accumulation of the greatest wealth or private emolument.

But, to put an end to these few desultory reflections, the whole of which, though not strictly medical, are yet not foreign to this one purpose of exciting others to pursue a similar method of improving the efficacy of medicines, in this and other disorders; our intention in them being

— *fungi vice cotis, acutum
Reddere quæ ferrum valet.*

Hoping

Hoping to contribute more by this means to the benefit of mankind, than by any labours of our own ^x.

If we have appeared too sanguine in the hope of a radical cure in the Gout, or shewn too partial an attachment to the authority of the great Sydenham, in such expectation, we trust the candour of the reader will excuse our predilection for this great author, when he reads the following quotations from Dr. Boerhaave, that celebrated physician of modern times,—“ who frequently perused him, and always with greater eagerness;” asserting, that “ no physician, since the venerable Hippocrates, has written of diseases with so much accuracy:” And, “ lamenting that few, if any, of the modern writers in physic, have attained to the perfection of the ancients;” “ I can only,” adds he, “ mention one great man, Thomas Sydenham, the ornament of England, and the Apollo of the art, whom I

^x What may flatter the reader, as well as myself, with hope, is, this one strong circumstance, that these Cases, both in the Gout and the acute Rheumatism, though few, are not selected, or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they rise in the course of my practice, and contain the *whole* from a *limited time*; except one, which I have not time to collect, being at some distance, and which turned out as favourably as the rest.

never consider, but my mind presents me with the genuine picture of an Hippocratic physician, and to whom physic is so much indebted, that all I can say will fall short of his merit."

Batson's Coffee-House, Cornhill,
20th February, 1774.

THE END.

E R R A T A.

- For happiest, page 7, l. 13, read, happy.
 characters, — 18, l. 9, — circumstances.
 Reverius, — 31, l. 4, — Riverius.
 reflection, — 43, l. 2, — reflecting.
 medicine, — 45, l. 4th from the bottom read
 medicines.